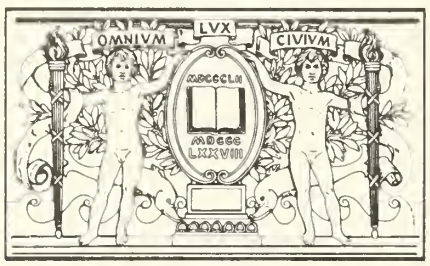
A VISION OF UNITY

The Bland Family in England and America 1555-1900

By CHARLES L. BLAND



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A VISION OF UNITY: THE BLAND FAMILY

IN ENGLAND AND AMERICA, 1555-1900

By

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"To live in the hearts we leave behind is not to die"

Tombstone Inscription for David Bland
(1840-1862) Rose Hill, North Carolina

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This book is dedicated to Robert Linn Bland
and to his daughter, Urilla Moore Bland,
for the vision of unity that is their
legacy to future generations

and to

Bruce Steven Bland Senior
Mary Jane Migliore Bland
Christina Louise Bland
Thomas Eliot Bland

PREFACE

Back in North Carolina during the Fifties, my uncle Berry Jewel Bland began collecting information about his ancestors. Visits with my father to Berry's home, infrequent though they were, became trying to my teenage patience. No sooner would conversation lull, giving rise to the hope that my father would gather up his things and leave than Berry, rising and walking like a monk to his prayers, would go to his closet and take out a box full of musty papers, his latest findings, and the visit was extended indefinitely. Once Berry handed me a sheet that listed my name as the son of Bruce Steven Bland and Frances Faries. It thrilled me momentarily to think that glacial, grave old Berry had stopped to contemplate me. But my first brush with genealogy did not long hold my interest and my thoughts quickly drifted to other matters.

Years passed. I graduated from High School in 1959, leaving North Carolina to work for a time in Charleston, South Carolina, before spending four years in Texas and Morocco in the Air Force, then travelling to Nebraska and Missouri, back to North Carolina for two years, back to Nebraska and then to Baltimore Maryland and Washington D.C. for three years. In August 1972, I began work at the State University of New York, Buffalo. The following January, Berry Bland died, leaving behind what was by then a greatly enlarged mass of genealogical notes that were duly passed to his daughter, Margaret Bland Magliocco. Several more years passed and at my aunt Wilma Bland's funeral in 1977, I met Margaret for the first time in a decade. She was just then sorting out Berry's notes and planned to make it into a book. By then, my genealogical interest had been whetted by the Roots phenomenon. Also, in preparation for my Ph.D. general examsin history, I had, while reading colonial and revolutionary history, come across various Blands of historical note. So I began to look forward to Margaret's work, which came out

as The Bland Family of Rutherford County, North Carolina (1978). The publication coincided with the birth of my daughter, Christina Louise. and Margaret was good enough to send her an autographed copy. Christina did not have much use for the book, so I borrowed it from her and read and reread it. As the title of her work implied, Margaret's thematic parameters limited her work to study of a particular branch. She did, however, preface her work by tracing the Rutherford County Blands back to James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia. She also touched briefly on the London and Virginia family of patrician Blands of the 16th and 17th century that I call in this work the James River Blands. These, I discovered, were the Blands that kept popping up in colonial histories. Margaret claimed there was no relation between the James River family and James Bland from whom we descended. Immediately the question arose: How could two such large families settle in Virginia in such a close proximity of time and geographic space, and not be somehow related? As I would learn, it was an old question that has long fascinated Bland researchers.

Any real search for answers, however, was long in coming. In 1978 and 1979, I was absorbed with the new experience of teaching and was writing my doctoral dissertation. Then in the summer of 1979 I went home to visit my parents and relatives for two weeks, visited many relatives I had long since forgotten, and talked to many of them about their past. I left North Carolina with some ten hours of taped interviews with aunts, grandaunts, and my mother and father. Though I was innocent of the implications and magnitude of such an undertaking, I promised myself that summer that when my dissertation was completed I would write a big comprehensive book about the entire American Bland family from its earliest English origins. The beginning was delayed for almost a year by a series of events that have nothing to do with genealogy, but by the summer of 1980 I was back at it. While my doctoral research coexisted with genealogy as a conflicting imperative, increasingly it became clear that the genie was out of the bottle and my soul would know no rest until I had written the history conceived in my mind's eye during the summer of 1979.

By this time I had gathered a lot of factual information about the James River Blands and their London antecedents. Some former curator at the Erie County, New York library had collected an unusually large amount of Virginia and English historical documents, including the Harleian Society Publication's extensive collection of English Parish records. Also, the Church of Latter Day Saints Genealogical Library had a branch office near my home. In addition, Professor Elspeth Veale, in England, had sent me some records on the old Skinner's Guild of London that shed light upon the lives of Adam Bland (C.1528-1594) and his son Peter. I had my own copy of Nicholas Carlisle's Collections For a History of the Ancient Family of Bland (1826); Charles Campbell's The Bland Papers (1840); and a dozen closely written pages about the Bland family for Ralph Thoresby's Ducatus Leodensis (1715), the oldest extant information about the Bland family that I know of.

But as summer 1980 turned to autumn, it became increasingly clear that I had made no substantial progress in locating information that would link the two Virginia families. I had struck up a communication with Mrs. George (Nel Westbrook) Ford, who like me, descended from Robert Bland (1733-1787) of Edgefield County, South Carolina. And I had contacted Mrs. Roland (Jessamine Bland) James, of Tucson, Arizona, who had furnished me two fat letters chocked full of historical data about the Stafford County Blands. But at the end of summer 1980 I was dead in the water.

The breakthrough occurred during three days of research at the Virginia State Library in Richmond October 14-16, 1980. There I discovered Urilla Moore Bland's 1977 paper, "The Bland Family Revised,"[1] in a catalog of holdings at the University of Virginia's Alderman Library. I called ahead to ask for a copy which I picked up on my return trip to New York. Later, I discovered that Urilla Bland had written an earlier piece called "Additional Collections for the Ancient Family of Bland" (1974), and I ordered that work also. In her first paper Urilla Bland expressed what I have called her vision of unity, the idea that the two major Bland families in America

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1 Cf. p. 34, note 1.

were descended from a common English grandfather, Adam Bland of London. The second paper was constructed around Miss Bland's 1975-1976 correspondence with Leslie Dawson, an attorney who had thoroughly researched the Maryland records. Dawson was interested in the Blands through his research on the Davis family, because his ancestor William Davis had married Ellen Bland, daughter of James Bland, (1655-1708). Dawson had explored the idea that Thomas Bland (C.1634-1700), the fraudulent lawyer who practiced in Maryland from about 1672-1693, might be the father or brother of, or closely related to, James Bland. More or less, his hunches were similar to those drawn, many years ago, by Urilla Bland's father. Together, Dawson and Urilla Bland raised formidable issues with indirect evidence, that pointed to a close relationship between Thomas and James Bland.

Most important, Miss Bland, Mr. Dawson and I were asking the same questions. Immediately upon my return to New York, I made contact with Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson, both of whom were extremely helpful and cooperative in providing documentation, ideas and other information. In my communication with Miss Bland and Mr. Dawson, I moved from an original skepticism about Urilla's vision of unity to reluctant belief. Quite incidentally, Urilla Bland helped me widen the circle of knowledge about my book, when, in answer to a question I posed to her, she suggested I write to William Graham Bland of Jacksonville Florida. If my acquaintance with Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson got me moving from the still waters I was in during fall 1980, Graham Bland became the friend in need who spread word of my work far and wide, and also encouraged me tremendously by his warm, friendly and encouraging letters. Graham put me in touch with Mary Wallace Day of Kenesaw Georgia and Albert Hunter, a retired professor now living at State College Pennsylvania both Bland descendants. Mary Wallace Day was indispensable as an intelligent critic in helping me develop Chapter XI. Al Hunter began corresponding with me in July and spread the word about my book to researchers,

particularly in the midwest. Pv this gradually enlargino body of contacts, I was able to meet and communicate with others who were actively or passively interested in the Bland family's history, and my own understandino of the dimensions of the family's growth was considerably enhanced by these new contacts.

My original goal was to trace the chief features of the family's origins in England and its settlement in America through the 18th century. About June 1981, the present title began to take hold in my mind. My correspondence with Al Hunter caused me to extend the scope of this book to 1900. The book begins in 1555, actually July 12 of that year when John Bland, the Marian Martyr, a cousin of Adam Bland, was executed for religious heresy. The year 1538 might have been an apt starting point, for it was in that year that Kino Henry VIII ordered maintenance by parishes of christenings, marriages and burials. Although the venerable Carlisle found traces of the name as far back in time as 1132, these parish records are, aside from sketchy guild and court records, the first objective English sources. The latter date is not always adhered to, but generally I have cut off discussion of family lines at about 1900, for two reasons: First, extension of all known lines into the 20th century would double the length of the book. Second, my hunch is that anyone living today who has any connection with the Bland family could easily trace their family back four generations. Having done so, the researcher in most cases could link his family to one of the lines in the book and trace his ancestry all the way back to England.

The book is about the two major families of Blands in America,[1] their English

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[1] As I hope to have made clear, it is by no means certain that there are only two families, although certainly there were only two major families. Exceptions are discussed on pp. 463-483; 494, Note 2; and in Appendix I, pp. 586-590. Additionally, the Kansas Census for 1880, Greenwood County, Salem Township, records John Bland, age 47, from England, and his wife Isabella, age 40. Their nine children included William, 19; Thomas, 17; Emily, 14; James, 12; Ann, 10; Elizabeth, 8; and Isabella, 6, all born in England. Additionally, John, 4, and Fred, 1, were born in Kansas, suggesting the family moved to America about 1875. By 1900, one of these children, James, had married Minnie B. _____, of Kansas, and had a family that included John D., born December 1893; James W., December 1895; William R., October 1897; and Freddie E., October 1898. If, as in the case of James, other sons of John and Isabella married and had children, there must be by 1982, a great many Blands stemming from this family who are spread all over the United States. Cf. pp. 361-367 and 392-400. Ch. VIII.

antecedents and their growth and expansion during the 18th and 19th centuries. It is driven by Urilla Bland's vision of unity that all who belong to one of these two major families have common ancestral grandparents, Adam Bland and his wife Joan Atkyns, of London. The idea of a common English ancestry is the overarching theme.

The book is divided into four major parts. One (Chapters I-III, pages 1-75), is about the English family of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. Two (Chapters IV and V, pages 76-190) examines the nature of the English family's settlement in Virginia during the 17th century and its flourishing as the James River Bland family in the 18th century. Part Three (Chapter VI, pages 191-254), is the buckle that holds together the earlier and later chapters. It examines all the evidence yet produced to substantiate a close relationship between James Bland, of Stafford County, and the James River family.

Part Four (Chapters VII-XI, pages 255-543) is a sequential study of the lines of descent from James Bland and his four sons, William, James, John and Robert. Thus, each major line of the Bland family, beginning at about 1700, is traced to about 1900.

Everyone who has researched their family's history is familiar with immense evidentiary holes. In the case of the Blands, there are many such gaps, brought about by loss over historical time, fires, destruction in war time, etc. These losses have created many voids in our understanding. To name a few, Thomas Bland of Maryland formulated a will in 1700 in which he wrote on the back side names of a number of people to whom he willed gold rings. The list of names, which could be critical to the question of whether Thomas was related to James Bland, is missing from American sources and may be lost.[1] This is only a part of the question of James Bland's parentage left seemingly unanswered by evidentiary voids. Similarly, the wills of James' sons, William and James, which would supply critical information about several issues, have been lost. For example, William's will would answer whether John Bland, who died

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1 Cf. p. 220, note 1.

in Nelson County, Kentucky, in 1795, was the son of William or of his younger brother John,[1] and whether Robert Bland, who died in Loudon County, Virginia, in 1760, was the son or grandson of James Bland (C.1655-1708).[2] It is further true, as many have observed, that the documentary research on the Blands in Virginia and Maryland is well nigh exhausted, yet somehow one must get around this apparent dead end. This book, which draws heavily upon traditional sources, was never intended to be the definitive book. Large as it is, it can be no more than an entree to future research. Every book, if it is worth anything, raises more questions than it answers, and I certainly hope that will be the case with this book. For that reason I have determined to break the Rankean syndrome that will admit no questions and no answers not grounded in eyewitness observation or genuine immediate documents. I have given myself ample latitude to speculate about possibilities wherever it has seemed necessary, always taking care to identify speculation. When conflicts in evidence occur, I have often reached conclusions, cited my reasons, and moved on. In other cases, I have presented available information and stated possibilities, without coming to any conclusions myself. In either case, I have footnoted my work so that readers may identify my sources, examine them and evaluate the validity of my observations. I will be deeply disappointed if this book becomes a panacea. Rather, I hope that the conclusions reached in A Vision of Unity will serve as vehicles to discovery of an ever evolving body of new genealogical information about the family. New evidence leading to new inferential and direct conclusions should turn up constantly, and as new insights emerge, old data will take on ever changing and new meanings. Thus, historical evidence is ever evolving, ever new, never static and stale. The vital key to increased understanding is, it seems to me, a healthy, amicable and open exchange of critical ideas and information between interested parties. Several critical tasks lay ahead. There needs to be an intensive study of the various Bland families in London from 1538 to 1650, about the time when the family began to settle

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1 Cf. discussion pp. 420-425.

in Virginia. Someone needs to do a thorough job of historical research into the James River Bland family during its 19th century phase of dissolution. There needs to be state by state research on the settlements in Maryland, Virginia, and the Carolinas through about 1850. The mingling of the various family branches in Kentucky between about 1780-1850 needs to be researched, and finally, the mid-19th century settlements in the midwestern states, Indiana in particular, but also Illinois, Missouri, Arkansas, Iowa and Kansas.

To realize these various goals and ideals, the Bland family needs a cadre of younger researchers. Traditionally, genealogy is a hobby for the elderly who have retired and begun to reflect upon the worth of their own life. Genealogy is a bit like children: it is one of our cheats against death. As my introductory paragraph illustrates, it is not a subject that often interests the young. That is why it is especially gratifying to see a young person like fifteen year old Stephen McLeod, of Tallahassee, Florida, become interested in his family history. Stephen has traced a very extensive genealogy that reaches back to the two sons of James Bland (twelfth generation) and his first wife Jemima Alderman: Daniel White Bland (1796-1871) and William Bland (1797-1873). But in addition to young researchers, the Bland family needs more historical consciousness. As shown in these seven hundred odd pages of narrative, maps, tables and photographs, the family has a very complex and diverse historical heritage of which anyone could be proud. Raised consciousness may include attendance at family reunions by the young members of a family, or organizing a family reunion if there is none. Reunions are a wonderful place for the young to meet the old. How often I have wished that I had been more interested in the past when my grandfather was alive, for he, born in 1876, knew men and women whose memory reached deep into the 19th century. No one probed those memories and now, sadly, he is gone and his reminiscences are known only to God. Attention to the knowledge of the elders is the only corrective to such a tragedy. One family of Blands which is very history conscious, and thus a model to others, is the Duplin-New Hanover County, North Carolina

family that descends from James Bland (1707-1774), of Prince William County, Virginia and New Hanover County. This family includes at least three major branch historians, including the late Milton Wilson, William Graham Bland, and Stephen McLeod. I should also note that although their present members are quite dispersed geographically, I have been very impressed by their knowledge of each other. Finally, this family congregates annually for a family reunion. My own attention to family has not measured up to the ideal set forth here, but I was able to write the concluding chapter of this book chiefly on the basis of taped conversations with various surviving members of the family. Although many of the facts brought out may not seem novel to today's generation, at some future time, a reader may be absolutely delighted with the photographs and the memories that lace this last chapter.

Although I could not have written this book without the assistance of many persons, conclusions reached are my own. I have mentioned above the extensive assistance given me during the preparatory phase of this book's development by Nel Ford, Jessamine James, Urilla Bland, Leslie Dawson, William Graham Bland, Albert Hunter and Mary Wallace Day. At the same time, the book could not have attained its final depth without the unstinting aid and cooperation provided by Grace Awerdick, of Apex, North Carolina; Luella Bland, of Brownstown, Indiana; Virginia Bland Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana; Marian Daniels, of San Benito, Texas; Castelloe Bland Denton, of Charlotte, North Carolina; Bertha Dunn, of Delia, Kansas; Alice Phillips Garrison, of Sanford, North Carolina; Max Kessinger, of Wichita, Kansas; Pearl King, of Denver, Colorado; Betty Lovvorn, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Stephen McLeod; Jane Mitby, of Denver, Colorado; Willie Lee Bland Moseley, of Stateboro, Georgia; Berniece Mumford, of Carlsbad, New Mexico; Elva Reitz, of Sun City, Arizona; Marjorie Sayles, of Abilene, Texas; Richard B. Smith, of DeKalb, Illinois; Eleanor Hayes Smith, of Tucson, Arizona; Betty Turpin, of Colorado Springs, Colorado; Robert Wheeler, of Lebanon, Oregon; and Pansy Lea Willburn, of Modesto, California. It has been my pleasure to speak to many of these persons by phone, and I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunities to visit personally

with Urilla Moore Bland and her brothers, Theodorick and Robert, Virginia Cowden, Theodore Cyrus Bland of Harrells North Carolina, Anne Katherine Scott Bland of Rose Hill North Carolina, and Alice Phillips Garrison. I am also appreciative of the interest and confidence in my work shown by all the subscribers to the book. Such an expression of support for my work, which began in solitude, has made it one of the most enjoyable and gratifying experiences of my life, one I shall never forget.

In preparation of this work, I was aided immensely by Betty Esperson, an old friend who typed the manuscript and took special pains to do it just the way I wanted it done. Bryon Young designed the cover for the softbound copies, (hardbound copies are more durable and less fancy). Finally, in closing, I wish to express my deepest appreciation to my family: to my father Bruce Steven Bland, whose material support and constant encouragement has been a source of inspiration. I also appreciate the many priceless photographs shared with me by Margaret Bland Magliocco, Hestine Bland Potts, Virginia Viril Bland Long, Billie Clifton Bland, Hilda Smart and my father, who gave me free use of two old photo albums formerly owned by Wilma Bland. Finally I want to say a special thanks to my wife Mary Jane Migliore Bland and to our two children, Christina Louise Bland and Thomas Eliot Bland for their patience and forbearance during this long period of preparation. It is fair to say that A Vision of Unity changed the rythm of our lives. The disappointed expression on a little girls face after her father says "not now dear, Daddy's busy" has been a persistent and unspoken source of pain to me. By recompense, I hope that many years from now, Christina and Tommy and their children and grandchildren will have this book to read, a fond father's exploration of the past dedicated to the legacy of their future.

At long last it is done, the book is finished. My soul is rested.

Charles Lewis Bland
Buffalo New York
March 1982

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PART ONE

THE BLAND FAMILY IN LONDON, 1555-1665

CHAPTER 1

AN END: THE TRIAL AND DEATH OF JOHN BLAND

July 12, 1555

The rains over Kent County were hard and frequent during the spring and summer of 1555. Queen Mary's execution of religious heretics had begun the previous February and they dragged on through the summer. Citizens were compelled to witness the grisly spectacle of clergy and laymen and women, high born and lower classes, being burned to death. The heavy summer rains sometimes doused out the flames when the ugly business was half done, leaving the victims half dead and screaming in pitiful agony. Presently, in a perverse humanitarian gesture, the executioners took to fastening bags of explosive powder to the victims, bringing instant and merciful death.[1]

At Canterbury, on July 12, 1555, John Bland, rector of the Adisham Church at Kent County, was burned to death, "at two several stakes but in one fire together,"[2] with fellow heretics John Frankesh, Humphrey Middleton and Nicholas Sheterden. John Bland was the 26th victim of Queen Mary's purges, which reached more than three hundred before her death in 1558.

John Foxe, chronicler of the Marian Martyrs, brings to life John Bland's last years in a long essay about his trial and death. John Bland is described by Foxe as "a common preacher...this Master Bland

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1 The description of the weather during the executions is found in Paul Johnson, Elizabeth I (London: 1972), p. 54.

2 John Foxe, The Acts and Monuments, Vol. VII (1570: Reprinted in 1965 by AMS Press), p. 313. Hereafter referred to as Foxe.

was so little born...that no part of his life was separated from the common and public utility of all men."[1] He was trained at Cambridge, receiving his B.A. with Honors in 1532-33, and his M.A. in 1536.[2] Although his birthdate is not known, it is reasonable to assume, based upon his matriculation dates at Cambridge, that he was born about 1515. His career as a teacher preceded his career as a minister.[3] The story of his last years of life is told, in Foxe's construction, through a long letter to his father[4] in which John Bland tells of his heresy, his imprisonment and the trials that brought him to death. Other sources indicate that Bland was strikingly consistent in his Protestant belief, refusing to shift faiths when the winds blew from Protestantism to Catholicism upon the death of Edward VI.[5] He was training for the ministry during the time of King Henry VIII's "great question" when Protestantism supplanted Catholicism as the English religion. All of this suggests that John Bland was a devout and dedicated, unyielding Protestant. One wonders, if the tables had been reversed, whether he would have been more merciful toward Catholics.

---

1 Foxe, Vol. VII, p. 287.

2 John Venn and John Venn, Compilers. Alumni Cantabrigenses, Vol. 1, Part 1 (1922), p. 164. Hereafter referred to in notes as Venn and Venn.

3 Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. II (1902), pp. 659-660.

4 Much to the regret of genealogists, Foxe does not identify the name of John Bland's father, who must have been living in 1559, since he was the source of Foxe's narrative.

5 John Strype, Ecclesiastical Memorials, Vol. III (London: 1630), p. 211.

John Bland, The Marian Martyr

John Bland's crime was his denial of the transubstantiation of consecrated bread and wine into the body of Christ. In other words, he rejected the Catholic sacrament. There may also have been some economic motive in Catholic interest in his particular rectory, which Carlisle describes as a very lucrative one.[1] But undoubtedly, the major force at work was the reflexive imposition of Catholicism upon the people of England by Queen Mary, Henry VIII's daughter by his first wife, the Spaniard Catherine of Aragon. Mary's motives were a mixture of politics, religion and biological vindication. For Mary's mother had been set aside by Henry VIII in a divorce that enabled him to remarry Anne Boelyn and precipitated England's shift to Protestantism. The divorce had, in effect, rendered Henry's marriage to Catherine null and void, and therefore made Mary legally a bastard. Thus, affirmation of Protestantism, from whatever source, struck at Mary's heart, challenged her legitimacy, and so her ability to rule.

It was a fearful time, when one's religion could be a badge of honor one day, and the certificate of death the next day. The great masses accommodated to the shifting political and religious tides. Some of the powerful changed their religion in order to preserve their estates and their lives. Others, John Bland among them, clung stubbornly and honorably to their faith, braving persecution and death. The Adisham rectory was fractured along those lines in John Bland's last years (1553-55).

By the fall of 1553, John Bland's congregation was under Catholic control. But John Bland continued to speak out against the Catholic

---

1 Nicholas Carlisle, Collection For a History of the Ancient Family of Bland (1826), p. 6.

sacrament. On September 3, 1553, not long after Mary came to power, and again on November 26, 1553, he spoke against the sacraments. In his later statement, he was challenged by leading members of the congregation.

On December 28, 1553, John Bland was apparently excluded from delivering the church service, and a Catholic priest was summoned to say the mass. In a dramatic gesture, John Bland disrupted the service, seized the pulpit and contradicted the visiting priest. He was promptly arrested, and imprisoned.[1]

After a brief detention, friends kept him out of prison until July 3, 1554, at which time he was confined and never again released. This last year of his life consisted of a series of confrontations with Catholic authorities, who evidently pleaded with him to recant. Foxe's construction of the trials of the martyrs always poses the immense power of the established clergy against the seemingly simple and home-spun, but actually subtle and profound wisdom of the martyrs. It should be remembered that when Foxe wrote in 1563, he was part of the restored Protestant clergy, and was thoroughly partisan. He may have even doctored some of the evidence to suit his own political and religious imperatives. John Bland may have been less heroic, and the Catholic clergy undoubtedly were not as one-dimensionally evil, as Foxe paints them. But even allowing for Foxe's selective use of evidence, the following exchanges between Bland and the clergy indicate clearly their essential impasse:

> Bland: "...for my Lord of Dover asked me...'dost thou believe, after the consecration, that it is the body of Christ?', and I said, 'no, I do not believe: for the

---

1 Foxe, pp. 287-293.

> scriptures tell me that there should remain the flesh of Christ, to eat as a man should eat man's flesh'."
>
> Faucet: "Master Bland...ye must humble yourself...to the holy church, which hath determined that after the consecration there remaineth no bread, but the natural body and blood of Christ."
>
> Bland: "I do not believe in any such transubstantiation, nor ever will, God willing."
>
> Faucet: "Then I have done with you: I will no more pray for you than for a dog."[1]

The "Lord of Dover," Richard Thorenden, Bishop of Dover and Suffragan of Canterbury, became the chief judge against Bland. Most writers on Bland's trial agree that Thorenden was an opportunist who had been, in Foxe's words, a "gospeller" (Protestant) before the reign of Mary, and had simply shifted with the tides, something John Bland in an admirable fiestiness threw up to him repeatedly.[2] Carlisle, the chronicler of the Bland family, implies that Thorenden arrested Bland because he wanted the wealth of the Adisham rectory.[3]

Bland had been imprisoned for almost a year when he made three fateful appearances before Thorenden on June 13, June 20, and June 25, 1555. Each time, Thorenden implored John Bland to recant his heresy, but as Foxe puts it, each time Bland "openly and boldly withstood the

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1 Foxe, pp. 297, 299-300.

2 Ibid., p. 297.

3 Ibid. Strype, pp. 211-213; Nicholas Carlisle, Collections For a History of the Ancient Family of Bland (1826), pp. 6-7. Hereafter referred to in notes as Carlisle.

authority of the Pope."[1] Following his last refusal, John Bland was condemned and committed to the secular authority. In his final prayer, Bland said:

> Lord Jesus, for whose love I do willingly leave this life, and desire rather the bitter death of this cross ...than to abide in blasphemy of thy holy name...I chose rather the torments of this body and loss of my life...that I might win thee.[2]

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1 Foxe, p. 304.

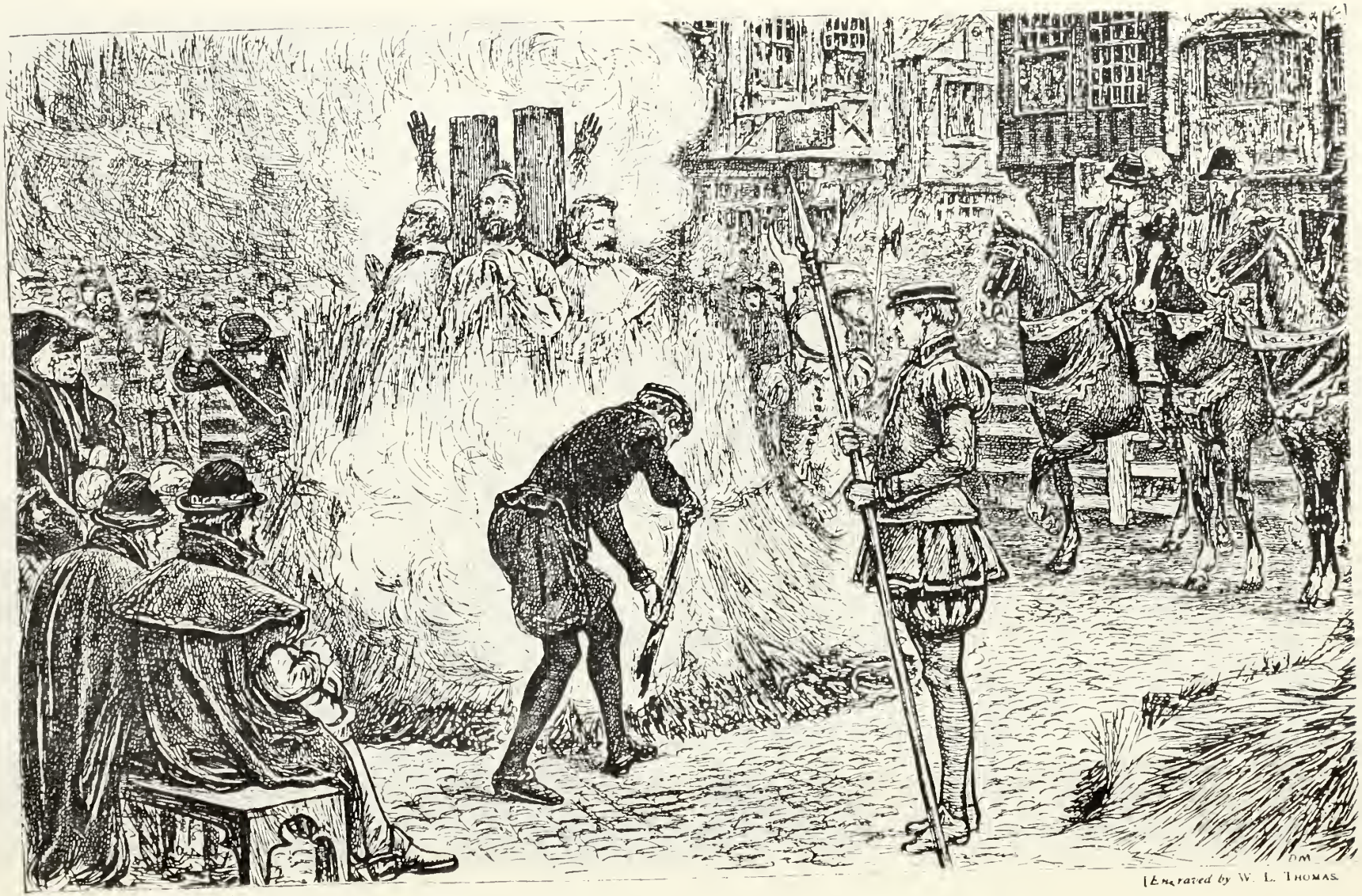
2 Ibid., p. 305.

December 28, 1553. John Bland challenges the authority of the Catholic Priest,

Drawn by F. W. LAWSON.] [*Engraved by* W. L. THOMAS

"I stood up in the chancel door, and spake to the congregation."

July 12, 1555. John Bland, the Marian Martyr, was executed with John Frankesh, Humphrey Middleton and Nicholas Sheterden "at two several stakes but in one fire together."



[Drawn by G. Du Maurier.] [Engraved by W. L. Thomas.

"They were all burnt together, at two several stakes, but in one fire."

These are artist's conceptions that appeared as illustrations in John Foxe, The Book of Martyrs, Revised by Rev. William Bramley Moore, M.A. (London: 1867), pp. 529, 541.

CHAPTER II

A BEGINNING: ADAM BLAND, YOUNG MAN FROM THE PROVINCES

It is convincing to me that John Bland's martyrdom was responsible for lifting the name of Bland out of oblivion. He was born in Sedbergh Parish in the West Riding of York County, with no more than a sliver of land in Westmoreland and Lancaster counties between his birthplace and the Irish Sea. Tradition and empirical information confirms[1] that the Bland surname is derived from Bland's Gill, a hamlet within Sedbergh, which itself is just east of the Lone River that marks the boundary between York and Westmoreland County. Sedbergh is just to the south of Orton Parish in Westmoreland County which is usually identified as the birthplace of another young man, Adam Bland, who lived during the 16th century. During the middle of the 17th century, Adam's grandchildren settled in Virginia. Philip Slaughter, the chronicler of Bristol Parish, Virginia, calls Adam the "cousin" of John Bland.[2] Unfortunately, Slaughter does not document his statement,

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1 Carlisle, p. 3; Ralph Thoresby, Ducatus Leodensis (1715), pp. 583-584. Hereafter referred to in notes as Thoresby. A massive computerized collection of births and marriages in England for 1500-1900, held by the Church of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Utah, includes about 200 pages of Bland names, including some 11,000 names. Sixty pages of names are taken up with York and Westmoreland County, far more than any other location except London, which has 35 pages. It should be added also that this was a period in which York and Westmoreland were among the most sparsely populated counties.

2 Philip Slaughter, A History of Bristol Parish, Virginia (1894), p. 150. Hereafter referred to as Slaughter.

but one is inclined to respect his observation because of the close geographic proximity of Sedbergh and Orton Parishes. During the 16th and 17th centuries, "cousin" was rather loosely used to describe not only cousins, but nieces and nephews, and sometimes in-laws. John and Adam Bland could have had a wide range of relationships, but given the apparent difference in their ages, John may have been Adam's uncle, belonging perhaps to the same generation as Adam's father, Robert (or as he is traditionally called, Roger), a husbandman from Orton.[1] For the later generations of Blands in America who trace their name back to England, then, Robert (or Roger) and possibly, John the Martyr, are members of the first known generation, and Adam the second. It is my belief, as I shall presently show, that the fates of these two young men, Adam and John Bland, were inextricably interwoven.

Both were born in the early part of the 16th century, in the Sedbergh-Orton region, and it is probable that they both were born poor, and given ordinary circumstances, might not have come to historical notice. Evidence of their poverty is offered by John Foxe's assertion that John Bland was "little born"[2] and from the traditional representation of Adam's father as an "husbandman" (ordinary farmer).[3] Further, during the 16th century, Cumberland, Lancaster and Westmoreland counties and the West Riding of York County were among the poorest, and least densely populated counties in England.[4]

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1 See the subsequent discussion about Adam's presumed first son, for my reasons in changing Roger to Robert.

2 Foxe, p. 287.

3 Thoresby, p. 208.

4 John Patten, Ed., Pre-Industrial England: Geographical Essays (London: 1978), p. 13.

About 1542, Adam came to London, the magnet city of that age, which drew its labor from the provinces in great numbers. Most likely, Adam was fourteen when he began his apprenticeship as a Skinner to Richard Bewe.[1] The Skinner's Guild got its start in 1327 as a collective engaged in the trapping, processing, merchandising, manufacture and sale of furs. Adam was "made free" or gained the freedom of the city to practice his craft February 1, 1549/1550,[2] meaning that he became a full-fledged member of the Skinner's Company. There were, by the mid-16th century, three ways to gain the freedom in London. The traditional way, the one that gave birth to the guilds, was to work as an apprentice under a master, as Adam Bland did in his service to Bewe. Apprenticeship was the poor boy's way to learn a craft. The other ways were to gain the freedom by patrimony (financed by one's father), or by redemption (paying one's own way into the guild without doing the traditional apprenticeship). Redemption entailed a rather substantial fee that closed such a route to the freedom for such poor provincials as Adam was in 1542. Adam's sons, Peter and William, were admitted to the Skinner's Company by patrimony, and undoubtedly, Adam's youngest son, John, bought his way into the Grocer's Company in 1626 by redemption. Adam, however, took the poor boy's route of apprenticeship.

Adam's beginning in London may be illuminated by briefly considering the changing shape of the London guilds, particularly the Skinner's Company, at about the time he began his apprenticeship. Professor Elspeth Veale, a British historian who has done research in the Skinners

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1 Letter, J. W. Cross, Beadle of the Skinner's Company, to Charles L. Bland, October 27, 1980. Hereafter referred to in notes as Cross.

2 Ibid.

of the late 15th and early 16th centuries, was good enough to provide information for this work about Adam Bland and his son, Peter. Her study of the fur trade also has been helpful. In it, Professor Veale analyzed the vocations of fathers of 132 freemen Skinners in London who had begun their apprenticeships from 1496-1515. Using the same source, she was able to ascertain the home county for 142 freemen Skinners. She found that thirty apprentices had been sons of husbandmen, and that thirty-six of them came from the York-Westmoreland, Lancaster area. Thus, in social status, Adam Bland seems to fit the stereotype of the typical London apprentice in the Skinner's Company during the early 16th century.[1]

Adam was, then, a young man in his early twenties (born probably about 1528) when he gained his freedom through apprenticeship.

Subsequently, Adam enjoyed a very considerable career in London, rising in the Skinner's Company ranks to the yeomanry in 1551, and to the livery in 1559.[2] Since membership in the livery usually signified merchant status, it is fair to assume that Adam was economically very well off by 1559. On July 19, 1560, Adam was appointed to a life term position of Sergeant Skinner to Queen Elizabeth. His salary was 12d. per day,[3] a decent salary for that time, but probably honorary

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1 Elspeth Veale, The English Fur Trade in the Later Middle Ages (1966), pp. 93-100. Hereafter referred to in notes as Veale.

2 Letter, Elspeth Veale to Charles L. Bland, September 15, 1980. Hereafter referred to in notes as Veale to Bland. Attainment of the livery cleared the person involved to hold political office in the city, and to participate in the policy-making of the Company. In other words, it put him more or less in the inner circle.

3 Carlisle, p. 123.

in nature. Adam evidently held this position until his death, about May 1594. One modern biographer of Queen Elizabeth records the following information:

> Adam Bland, 'our skinner,' furred a russet satin French gown with four 'luzrne' (i.e., lynx) skins, mended a pair of sables, but was mainly employed upon mending gowns and collars with the same.[1]

Quite a record of accomplishment in one decade for a young man of poor parentage, and from one of the poorest areas of England. What accounted for Adam's rise? Certainly, he must have been an ambitious young man, making the right connections, the right acquaintances, perhaps marrying the right woman. But it seems somewhat unlikely that a strong will and driven ambition could account for all of Adam's success, even with the latitude that the new commerce allowed in transcending one's class. Something else must have intervened.

I would suggest that as the only close relative to John Bland in London at the time of Elizabeth's coming to power, Adam may have benefitted from John's horrible death. To understand the drift of my argument, the reader may recur momentarily to the circumstances surrounding the publication of John Foxe's Acts and Monuments (1563). Following the death of Queen Mary in 1558, many high ranking Protestant clergy, Foxe among them, began to return from exile. Protestantism was reestablished as the religion of England, under Elizabeth, and these clergy were restored to their former prominence. But it is not likely that they were content to simply have Elizabeth proclaim a reign of tolerance and to reinstate Protestantism. (In fact, Elizabeth

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[1] A. W. Rowse, The Elizabethan Renaissance: Life of the Society (1971), p. 47.

tolerated a minority Catholic presence, and schisms within the Protestant Church, particularly Puritanism.) The hideous persecutions of Protestants under Mary created among the clergy a determination such events would never happen again. To this end, Foxe began immediately his Acts and Monuments in 1558, which comprised no mere collection of cases, but a profoundly political document. Foxe's work was chained to the doors of parish churches throughout the land to remind parishioners of what Catholicism had meant to them. And in that dawning age of literacy, Foxe's work was not only written with beautiful simplicity, but for those who could not read, was strewn with graphic woodcut renderings of the executions themselves.[1]

So the act of martyrdom of John Bland became a celebrated and widely known event in English life, read or told by word of mouth from pulpits, to rich and poor alike. It is not too much to say that John Bland, like all the martyrs, became a folk hero in Tudor England.

None of this was lost upon Queen Elizabeth. A far shrewder, wiser and politically more astute ruler than her sister, her reign was, for the time, a model of toleration and benefit for the people. She also realized that she could not retain power unless she could quiet the religious dissension within England. Further, she realized that Protestantism was the religion of England's future. Catholicism had lost its economic and social power during the reign of her father and younger brother. It had, except for the minority she tolerated, lost its moral authority because of the terrible crimes of Mary's reign. Now, Elizabeth needed the support of Protestant leaders like

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[1] The political importance of The Acts and Monuments is analyzed in William Haller, The Elect Nation: The Meaning and Relevance of Foxe's Book of Martyrs (New York: 1963), especially pp. 91-92, 122-124, 197-198.

Foxe to make her reign successful, and she knew that Foxe's book was to her a reminder of what had been and that the Protestant clergy would not support her unless she firmly supported them.

How to do this? The specific Acts of Religious Reconciliation taken by Elizabeth need not concern us, but it is also possible that she recognized the widespread heroism of the martyrs, and in a political gesture of good will, took action to as it were provide for the support of their living survivors. There was little conception of welfare as we know it in those days, but it may have been that Elizabeth granted relatively minor offices such as Adam's post as Sergeant Skinner to survivors.

Thus, my inference that the lives of John and Adam Bland were intertwined. Was this the case? Admittedly, there is no way of knowing. I have put the hypothesis to several British scholars, including Professor Veale, who seem intrigued by the idea, but cannot confirm or deny such a general practice by Queen Elizabeth. Though I am not a scholar on British history, I have read a number of pertinent works in British welfare history and have never come across mention of this in any discussion of antecedents to the Elizabethan Poor Laws. Professor Veale indicated that the reasons for appointment to the office of Skinner to the Queen (or King) in those days is not known, and not likely to be known.[1] Perhaps no one has ever asked the question, which admittedly is not high on scholarly agendae. I do not claim that my hypothesis is valid because of the absence of contrary proof. Yet it does seem like a plausible reason for Adam's career to have progressed so rapidly from such obviously humble beginnings.

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1 Veale to Bland.

Thus, Adam Bland was from Orton Parish in Westmoreland County, a poor provincial lad of about fourteen when he came to London in 1542 to begin an apprenticeship in the Skinner's Company. He gained his freedom of the city in 1549/1550, presumably at age twenty-one. Also, we know that Adam died about May 1594, for on May 8, 1594, his son Peter assumed the office that Adam had been granted for life, that of Skinner to the Queen.[1]

The release from apprenticeship in most Tudor guilds corresponded with legal adulthood for young men, age twenty-one, and also established him as a craftsman free to practice his trade in the city. Also, it marked the legal age for marriage. It was the time when a young man, in the quaint parlance of the time, took steps "to enter the married estate."[2]

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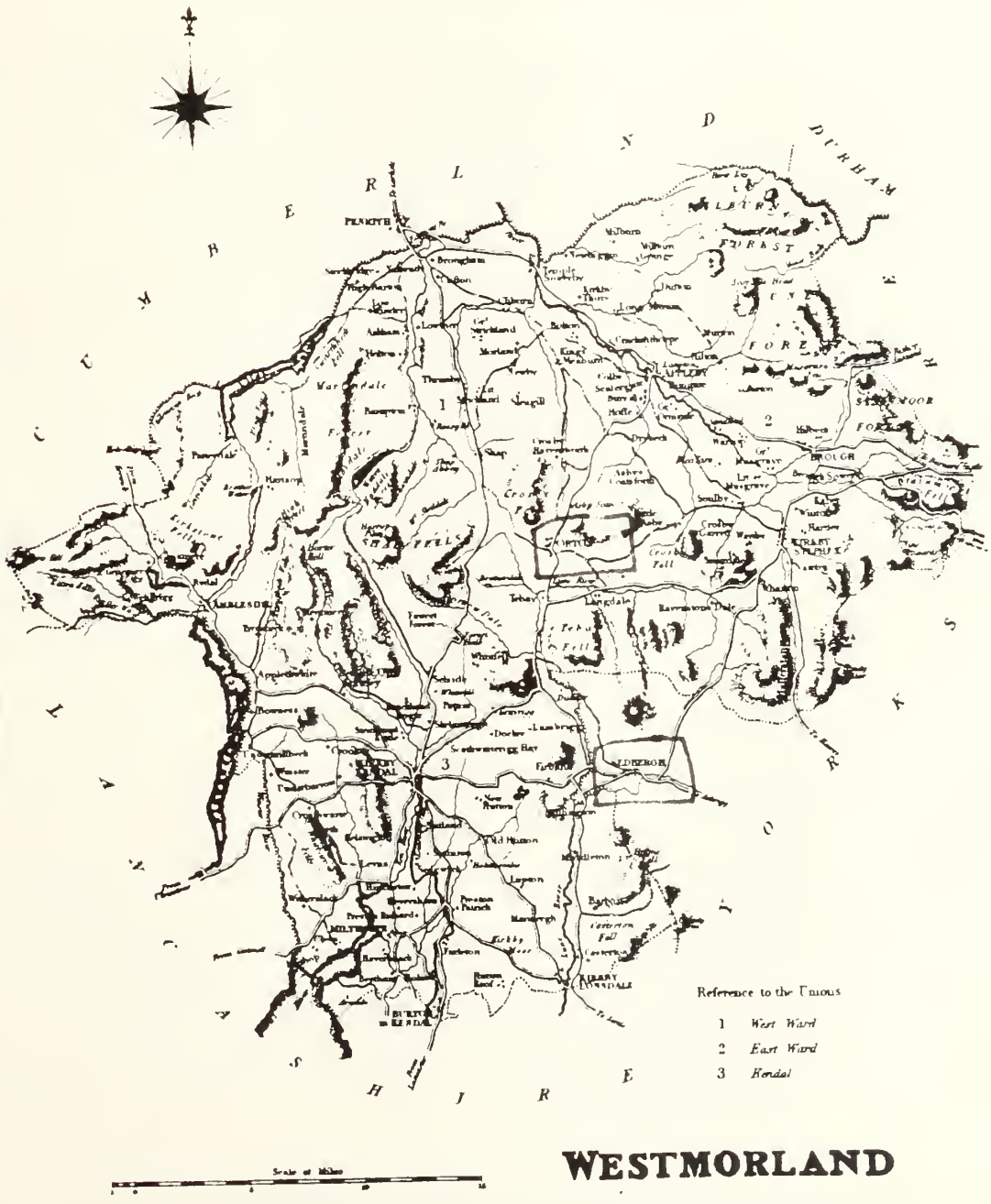
1 CSPD, Elizabeth I, Vol. III (1591-1594), p. 502. Cf. p. 24, note 2

2 Edmund Morgan, The Puritan Family (1966), p. 55. Morgan's is an excellent, simply written study of the marriage and familial customs of what were only one variant of Englishmen whose difference in religion did not mean they differed greatly from Englishmen in other areas of social life.

MAP I

Westmoreland County, Bordered by York County.
Orton and Sedbergh Parishes Outlined.



CHAPTER III

THE FAMILY OF ADAM BLAND OF LONDON: SECOND GENERATION

Adam's Marriage to Joan Atkyns

Adam Bland married Joan Atkyns, daughter of William Atkyns, a resident of St. Gregory's Parish in London. He must have married her about 1551. No parish records are extant to indicate Joan's birthdate, though she was buried in St. Gregory's Parish on July 10, 1596. Circumstances in Joan's life, however, make it possible to approximate her birthdate. A study of published marriage records for contemporaries to Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, by the modern historian Peter Laslett, indicates that the most frequent age of marriage for men was twenty-five, and for women, twenty-two. Laslett found the average (mean) marriage age to be about the same.[1] If Adam and Joan were married in 1551, and their ages came close to the average, Joan would have been born about 1528 or 1530. Was she? Admittedly, there is no way of knowing for sure, but there is another way of looking at it. Menopause for Elizabethan women ordinarily came earlier, at about age forty to forty-five, than for today's woman. It was also ordinary for women in Elizabethan times to bear children with regularity until menopause.[2] Certainly, this was plausible for Joan Atkyns. She had, by my estimate, thirteen children, with her last child, John, being

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1 Peter Laslett, The World We Have Lost (London: 1965), pp. 83-84.

2 Ibid., pp. 81-89, passim.

born in 1572.[1] If John's birth marks the approximate time of Joan Atkyns' menopause, then we may reasonably say that she was born between 1527 and 1532. For purposes of reference, an approximate birthdate of 1530 for Joan is appropriate.

Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns lived all their married lives in St. Gregory's Parish, where all their children were born. The parish registers for St. Gregory's survived only from 1559 onward. Beginning in 1538, all parish priests and rectors were ordered to keep records of christenings, marriages and deaths or burials. Many London parishes complied immediately, though some lagged behind for several years. Whether St. Gregory's records were not begun until 1559, or antecedent records were destroyed in the great London fire of 1666, is uncertain. At any rate, information I provide about Adam Bland's family that precedes 1559 is deduced from evidence. but not conclusively proved. In reconstructing the family of Adam Bland, I will delineate the generations that followed his children through their settlement in Virginia. The actual settlement in Virginia is appropriately discussed in Chapters IV, V and VI.[2]

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1 Estimates of the number of Joan's children varies from genealogist to genealogist, ranging from twelve to fifteen.

2 Information about Adam Bland's family is located primarily in St. Gregory Near St. Paul Parish Register, 1559-1667 (LDS Manuscript 10, 231); other Parish information is from the LDS Microfiche collection and from Harleian Society Publications Indicated by Parish. When parish records are not available, I used wills referred to in Henry Waters, Genealogical Gleanings, Vol. 1 (1901), pp. 812-815; hereafter referred to as Waters. Ralph Thoresby's Ducatus Leodensis (1715); The Bland Proby, Langhorne, and Catcher entries in the Visitation of London (1633); Charles Campbell, The Bland Papers (1840), pp. 145-149; The Richmond Critic, July 9, 1888, and Joseph Hunter, Familae Minorium Gentium (1895), pp. 421-427. Nicholas Carlisle, Collections For a History of the Ancient Family of Bland (London: 1826) is invaluable. Other occasional sources will be cited fully when used.

The tendency of American genealogists interested in the Bland family to concentrate upon Adam's youngest son, John (1572-1632), and more particularly, John's youngest son Theodorick (1629-1671), has led to neglect not only of the fascinating story of Adam Bland's entire family, but also of potentially connecting tissue to what appear to be other, unrelated Bland families in colonial Virginia.

One of the major themes of this book will be to examine the evidence that could establish linkage between what now appears to be two primal but seemingly disparate families in 17th and 18th century Virginia. Certainly, no such examination can be successfully undertaken without delineating as carefully and accurately as one can, the multifaceted growth of Adam Bland's entire family. The balance of this chapter takes the reader through about six generations of Blands descended directly from Adam Bland and his father. In each case, I discuss, if possible, the birth and death of the child, and in the case of the men, their vocational life. Next, I discuss their marriage and the children they had in their turn, repeating the format for every generation. Before beginning, it may be useful to make several informational points:

First, our knowledge about this family, though it substantially adds to the interested researcher's knowledge, is fragmentary, derived from many disparate sources, and in many cases, constructed on the basis of evidentiary probability. What I say, or conclusions I reach, should not close discussion or inquiry about any family member. Indeed, I look upon this work as a beginning, really as nothing more than an outline to be filled in and modified by my own and other's subsequent research.

Second, a note for the casual reader about dates is appropriate. Until 1752, England observed the Julian calendar, in which the year began on Lady Day, March 25. Thus, any date that falls between January 1 and March 25, is identified by a diagonal: e.g., Adam Bland gained his freedom from the Skinner's Company February 1, 1549/1550. Calendar references without this aid are utterly confusing.

Third, parish registers only occasionally indicate the actual date of birth and death of an individual. Rather, baptismal, christening, and burial dates are listed. Absent better information, probation dates for wills is followed. Infrequently, however, probation of wills may provide no close approximation of a person's death. Peter Bland wrote his first will in 1615, but didn't die until after 1625.

Finally, a word about the name Bland. The venerable Thoresby first found the name mentioned in 1132:

> But the Name of the Family, as a Monofyllable, is fo obfolete, that I remember not to have met with it, fave in Compofitions, where it fignifies yellow, or golden...If not originally from the Britifh Belin, eafily converted into Blin and Bland: Thus, Cuno-Beline... is as much as the Yellow or Golden-Prince...The Italians, by changing l into i (as is the Cuftom of their Country) render it Bionello... [1]

The name Bland was said to have originated in a hamlet geographically located in Westmoreland County named Bland. In early times, common men were often known by the town in which they lived, e.g., Robert of Bland. Subsequently, some class distinction was used by a French variation, e.g., Robert de Bland. Thus, some pre-sixteenth century Blands were known as de Bland. By the time Adam Bland moved

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[1] Thoresby, p. 93. The word also may derive from the German "Blenden" meaning loosely, "to shine or dazzle."

MAP II

Ecclesiastical Map of London During the Tudor Stuart Period Until the Great Fire of London, 1485-1666

London Bridge crosses the Thames River.

Parishes are numbered 1-110. Parishes where the Bland family lived during this period are circled, and on this page are in parentheses.

Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns lived at St. Gregory's Parish Near St. Paul's Cathedral (33), and all their children were born there.

Peter Bland and Susan _____ started their married life at St. Gregory's, but later moved to St. Dionis Backchurch (25) and St. Peter's Cornhill (89).

Thomas Bland married Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley at St. Martin's Within Ludgate (51). Elizabeth had been born at All Hallows Honey Lane (5). Thomas lived in Sundridge, Kent County, when he made his will, but he owned property at St. Benet, Peter and Paul Wharfs (90, 20). Thomas' son, George, married Anne Caunte at St. Anne's Blackfriar Parish (29). Thomas Bland's second wife, Mary Catcher Moody, was born at St. Peter the Poor Parish (91).

William Bland was married and lived with Judith Wood at St. Michael Bassishaw Parish (71).

John Bland and Susan Deblere lived alternately at St. Gregory's, St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury (56), St. Stephen Coleman (92), and St. Antholin's Parish (15). John's son, John, and his wife, Sarah Greene, lived at St. Olaves Parish (84).

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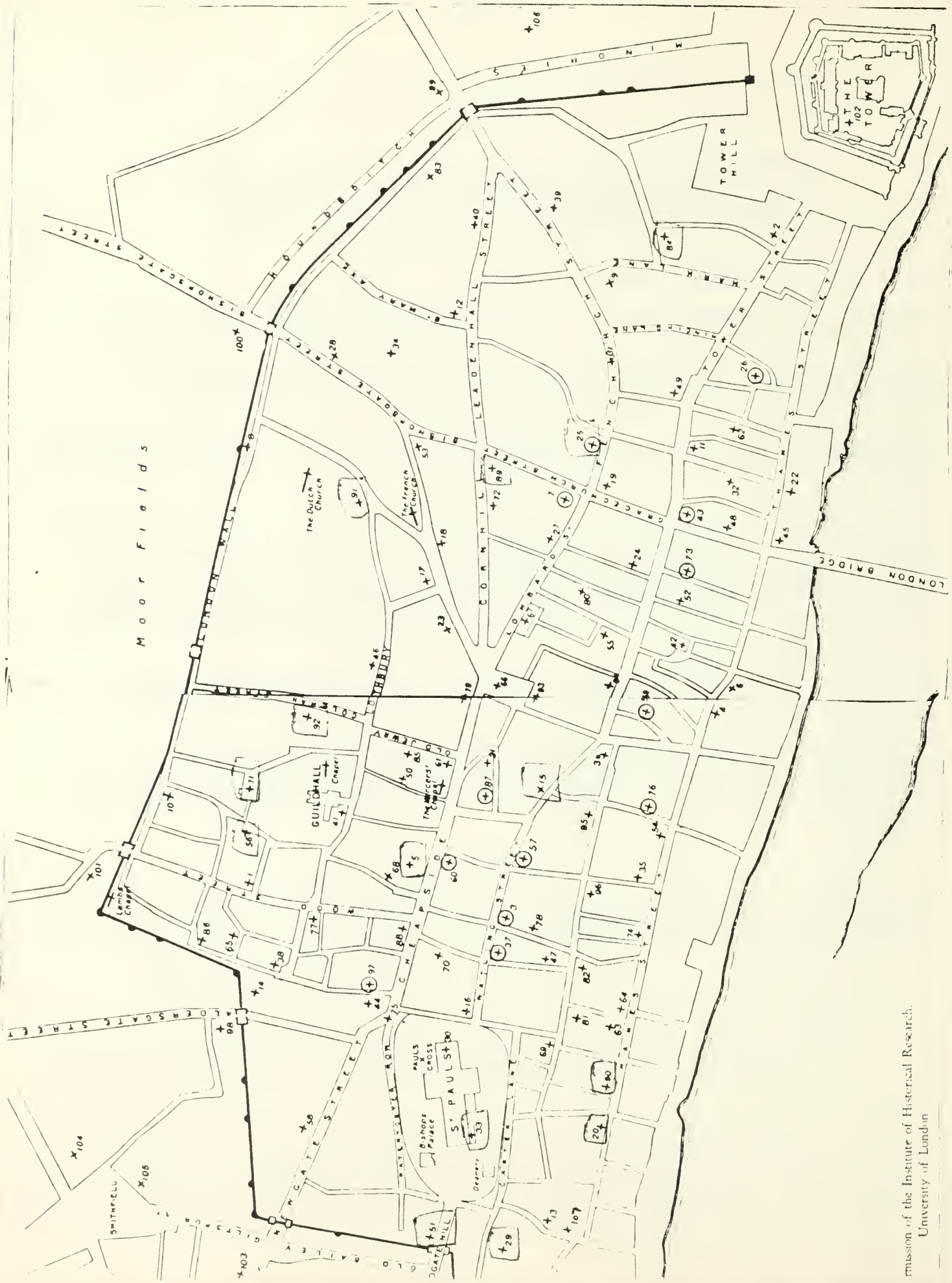
MAP II



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to London, this practice largely had been discarded, and Blands were simply so spelled with a less frequent variant, Blande. Adam Bland and his children used Bland and Blande interchangeably. Settlers in Virginia, evidently enjoying their release from form and sometimes no doubt flushed with a lack of historical memory or simply illiterate, spelled the word Blann, Blan, etc. The most consistent and enduring spelling, however, has been Bland, which for purposes of simplicity in this book, is what I use.

Throughout this book, when discussing women who married Bland men, I will identify them by their maiden names. This is because there were a limited range of given names for men and women. It becomes extremely confusing at times in discussing men, but in that case is unavoidable. With respect to women, it is much clearer to indicate, for example, that the third generation discussed in this chapter, are children of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. Subsuming the woman's name under Bland would in many cases complicate her identity. The reader will always understand, however, that among her contemporaries Joan Atkyns was known as Joan Bland after she married Adam Bland.

To summarize briefly, I have previously estimated that Adam Bland was born about 1528 and died in 1594. Joan Atkyns, his wife, was born about 1530 and died in 1596. They were married probably about 1551. By my reading of the evidence, Adam and Joan had thirteen children, including nine sons and four daughters.[1]

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[1] Thoresby, p. 93. Birthdates of the first four children are estimated, on the assumption that the first child would be born about a year from the date of marriage, and that a natural child spacing rythm of 18-24 months was established by the contraceptive effect of breast feeding.

Robert Bland: Third Generation

I believe that the first child and first son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns was Robert Bland (third generation). He would have been born about 1552 and died sometime before 1559. Robert's very existence is problematical. First, there is no record of him in the St. Gregory's Parish registers, which as previously stated, began only in 1559. Second, small children did not figure prominently in adult consciousness. Thus, the Bland pedigree submitted to the Visitation of London for 1633 makes no mention of him. By that time, a child who had lived only briefly some eighty years in the past would hardly have been remembered. Nor is a Robert mentioned by Dale's Insert to Thoresby's work, or in Hunter's work. The possibility that there was a child named Robert was first mentioned by Charles Campbell's genealogical addition to The Bland Papers, a fragmentary record of letters, biography and miscellanea held by Theodorick Bland (1740-1790) and discovered somewhat fortuitously fifty years after his death. Campbell lists Robert as a first child of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, as does an anonymous article in The Richmond Critic on July 9, 1888. Much of the latter article was borrowed from The Bland Papers. It should be remembered that information possessed by Theodorick Bland was probably passed down through his family, and thus it is probably at least contemporary to Thoresby's information (1715).

One would think that the question of whether a child ever lived or not, especially one who died in childhood (there is no trace of a Robert surviving to adulthood), is more or less a trivial issue. But the presence of a son named Robert, particularly a first son, could challenge the traditional name assigned to Adam's father. Thoresby

was the first to identify "Roger" Bland of Orton Parish, Westmoreland County, as Adam's father. Every other key genealogist has copied this information, which is not founded in any objective source, such as a parish register, but is strictly derived from literary tradition, i.e., Thoresby's Ducatus Leodensis.[1] It may well be that old Thoresby was deaf and misunderstood what Robert Dale, his source of information about the Blands, told him. Or perhaps the information Dale had passed on to Thoresby was wrong or had become garbled in the passage of time.[2] When extant evidence is brought to bear, one finds that in all the male names commonly used by Englishmen, Roger occurs very infrequently. Of all the Bland names listed in the Latter Day Saints collection, for London, Westmoreland and York County, Roger occurs only once (not the man in question). Robert, on the other hand, is used profusely. Another way of looking at the issue is to consider Elizabethan child-naming practices. Elizabethan couples took considerable pride in naming their children, especially first sons and daughters, for their parents or grandparents. With this in mind, the reader will notice on the following pages that many of Adam's grandsons were named Robert. None were named Roger, and Adam did not to my knowledge name any of his sons Roger. This suggests at least the possibility that genealogists, beginning with Thoresby, were wrong about the name of Adam's father, or that Roger (if that was his name) was such a scoundrel that neither his sons nor grandsons ever named a

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1 Thoresby lived from 1658-1725.

2 Robert Dale, who was Thoresby's source for the Bland family, was an in-law of John Bland (1668-1746), son of Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) and great grandson of Adam Bland. Thoresby gathered this information in 1712 at which time Adam Bland's father had been in his grave probably for upwards of 200 years.

single male child for him. As a matter of fact, Roger has never been used by any Bland that I know about to the present day.

What difference does this make? It appears that certain similar names, beginning with the London family, were used by both major American branches fairly consistently down through the 18th century, at which time American cultural forces supplanted the British and naming practices began to fragment. Robert is a name used frequently and repetitively by both branches of the Bland family in Virginia. Thus, the usage of Robert as the name of our first generation founder, rather than Roger, would supply a source for names used in later generations, and could be important in cementing a probable relationship between the two Virginia families.[1]

Jane Bland: Third Generation

Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns' second child and first daughter was Jane, or Joan (third generation). Again, confusion and uncertainty surrounds her name and order of birth. I place her as the second child, following the lead again of The Bland Papers and The Richmond Critic. It should be noted that Thoresby and the genealogists who copy him make her the child of William, who is identified as the oldest child, a logical inconsistency to be dealt with later. Thoresby appears to be correct in asserting that her name in the St. Gregory's record was transposed to "Mary" when she married William Hope on February 20, 1586/1587. She was probably born about 1554, and I have found no record

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[1] At the same time, there is no evidence, only deduction, to support a claim that Adam Bland's father was named Robert. Obviously, the reader must reach his own conclusion.

of her death. William Hope and Jane Bland had a daughter Joan, who is mentioned in Thomas Bland's will of 1617/1618 (Thomas was Jane's brother). She married a Robert Brawler. John Bland's will of 1627 mentions "My cousin, Robert Brawler, and his wife and daughter."[1] William and Jane also may have had a son, William, who was born in St. Gregory's Parish on December 30, 1591.

Peter Bland: Third Generation

The third child and second son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns was Peter (third generation). It is probable that Peter was born about 1557 and died soon after June 27, 1625.* He married Susan _____ about 1584 in St. Gregory's Parish. Peter and Susan lived out their lives and raised their family in St. Gregory's Parish where Susan was buried January 20, 1614/1615.

Like his father, Peter became a Skinner, and his rise through the company's ranks is fairly well documented. He was sworn to the freedom by patrimony on December 1, 1578,[2] meaning that he did not serve an apprenticeship, but simply bought into the company through a fee paid by his father or himself. His age may be estimated by the fact that he would have had to be twenty-one in order to practice a craft in London; thus, he could have been born no later than 1557. As a Skinner, he remained active in company business. Records show his commendation to the wardens of a young scholar for financial assistance in March 1600/1601.[3] He is also shown in company records as

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1 Waters, Gleanings, p. 813.

2 Cross.

3 John James Lambert, Ed., Records of the Skinners Company of London: Edward I to James I (London: 1934), p. 281.

* Peter's death may have precipitated the formulation of his brother John's will in 1627, five years before John died. See discussion pp. 26-3

having sponsored the apprenticeship of Thomas Bland, son of Thomas Bland of Essex County, from 1596 to 1605. and for taking up his own son, William, as an apprentice in 1607[1] (a service that was cut short by William's death in 1611). It is interesting that having entered the company through patrimony, Peter would have his own son serve an apprenticeship.

On May 8, 1594, Peter received an appointment as Queen Elizabeth's Skinner, succeeding his father.[2] His terms of employment were exactly the same as his father's. Peter evidently served as Skinner to King James also until 1611 when, as we shall presently see, he was replaced by his son-in-law for what must have been extraordinary reasons (Peter, as Adam before him, had been appointed to a life term). On March 9, 1602/1603, Peter, who was referred to in company records as "of the ancientest of the livery," leapfrogged a lower office of Renter Warden and took his place as one of four Assistant Wardens.[3] Peter advanced to Third Warden in 1610, to First Warden in 1614, and Master Warden in 1615.[4] In 1618, he was elected to the company's highest officer, Master Skinner.[5]

Peter Bland and Susan appear to have had three sons and three daughters, as follows:

Joan (fourth generation), first child and first daughter of Peter and Susan Bland, was born April 18, 1585, at St. Gregory's Parish.

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1 Ibid.

2 British Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth I, Vol. III (1591-1594), p. 502. Hereafter, references to the Domestic series will be noted CSPD, and references to the Colonial series will be noted CSPC.

3 Lambert, p. 286, of letter, Veale to Charles Bland.

4 Letter, Cross to Charles Bland.

5 James Foster Wadmore, Some Account of the Worshipful Company of Skinners, Guild of Corpus Christi (London: 1902), p. 192.

Joan married Thomas Langhorne (date and place uncertain) and they appear to have had at least four daughters: Susan (who must have been born about 1607, for she is mentioned in John Bland's will of 1627 as being married to a man named Northers). A daughter, Joan, was baptized in St. Stephen Walbrook Parish on May 5, 1615, and Elizabeth was baptized in St. Gregory's Parish, June 28, 1616. The fourth daughter was named Frances. As previously indicated, Thomas Langhorne was appointed Skinner to King James I in 1611, succeeding Peter Bland, his father-in-law.

Peter and Susan Bland's second child and first son was Adam (fourth generation).[1] Adam was born at St. Gregory's Parish on September 5, 1586 and died there on July 18, 1597.

The third child, and second daughter of Peter and Susan Bland, was Susan (fourth generation). She was baptized at St. Dionis Back-church Parish on October 29, 1587, "daughter of Peyter Blande, Skinner." She married John Marden in Surrey County, Battersea, on September 8, 1606. Marden died April 17, 1620, and the following September 27, Susan Bland Marden married Sir Arnold Herbert. She had by Herbert one child, William, born August 9, 1624. She is "The Lady Herbert" mentioned by John Bland in his will of 1627. Susan died on July 7, 1644 and was buried at Warfield in Berks County. Her second husband outlived her by five years and was buried near her September 30, 1649.

The fourth child, and second son, of Peter and Susan Bland was Robert (fourth generation) who was born on May 25, 1593 and christened

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[1] Note the naming pattern. The first daughter is named Joan, the first son, Adam.

at St. Peter's Cornhill Parish on June 3, 1593. He must have died young. There is no trace of a Robert in the key wills of Thomas Bland (1617) and John Bland (1627). Also, if he had lived, his father would likely have attempted to apprentice him in the Skinner's Company and some trace would have turned up in the records, but there was none.

The fifth child of Peter and Susan Bland, and their third daughter, was Judith (fourth generation) who was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish on April 27, 1595. She married Thomas Wilcox there on July 22, 1612. What happened to Judith Bland and Wilcox after their marriage is not known. Neither of them are mentioned in the will of Thomas or John Bland.

The sixth child, and third son of Peter and Susan Bland, was William. It is probable that he was born very close to Judith and that they were named for Peter's recently deceased brother William, who died in 1596, and his widow, Judith Wood Bland. Also, we know that he was apprenticed by his father in 1607 and he would have had to be between ten and fourteen to begin the apprenticeship. Given the birthdates of his siblings, Robert (1593) and Judith (1595), it is likely that he was born about 1596 or 1597. He was then a young boy of about fourteen when he was buried at St. Gregory's Parish on August 7, 1611.

Three Keys and an Unlikely Knave: Peter Bland and His Kinsmen

What follows should be read with a due sense of caution for generalizations constructed from incomplete facts. Yet one must view the last years of Peter Bland's life with a certain amount of poignancy. Peter lost all three of his sons in their childhood, and his wife died

in 1614. These successive deaths may have left Peter despondent, stricken with grief, and emotionally withdrawn. There are some indicators that Peter may not have functioned well after 1611, when his son, William, died. It has been noted, for example, that Peter yielded his title as Skinner to King James to his son-in-law, Thomas Langhorne, in 1611, two months after William's death.[1] This was a position that had been granted to Peter "for life." Finally, as we have seen, Peter Bland progressed in the Skinner's Company to its highest position in 1618, but it may well be that because of increasing mental instability, his terms as Master Warden were honorary in nature, and that he did little of substance in those capacities.

What followed in Peter's life is perhaps best prefaced by the following passage from the will of John Bland, in 1627:

> I give unto all my godchildren twenty shillings apiece, except Lawrence Lownes' daughter, and Gregory Blande's son or daughter, for Lownes played the knave with me, and Gregory Bland deceived me likewise, so neither they nor theirs shall have one penny of mine. To my brother, Gillye, forty shillings, and to each of his children by my sister, forty shillings apiece, Judith Lownes not to have anything, the wife of Lawrence Lownes.[2]

It does not take a lot of corroborating evidence in this case to tell that in 1627 John Bland was hopping mad at both Gregory Bland and Lawrence Lownes. To gain some insight into this, it would be well to identify family relationships among the parties. Peter was the eldest living son of Adam Bland. In 1617/1618, Thomas Bland, the second eldest son of Adam Bland, died leaving only Gregory Bland and

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1 CSPD, James I, Vol. II (1611-1618), p. 76.

2 Waters, p. 813.

John Bland in line behind Peter Bland, whom it will be recalled, had no sons who lived to adulthood. Lawrence Lownes was a nephew, having married on January 5, 1617/1618 a daughter of Mary Bland Gilby, a sister of Peter, Gregory and John.

Evidently, Peter held the Bland family fortune, having received a sizable estate from Adam Bland and built upon it. In 1615, Peter held lands with rent values of 230 pounds sterling per annum, and "also possessed a personal estate of good value."[1]

Perhaps with some premonition of death, Peter drew up his will in 1615, leaving his estate to his three daughters and their issue. Although I am not certain, I do not believe the will met contemporary legal standards. In 1621, Peter wrote a codicil entrusting his lands to John Bland and Lawrence Lownes.[2]

In March 1622/1623, Peter made out a second will, naming Lownes, John Bland and one Baldwin, who was described as Peter's "best trusted friend" as co-executors.[3] To preserve this new will, he placed it in a strong-box secured by three locks and gave one key to each lock to the three executors, a sign, significant in itself, that he may not have fully trusted either of them. In his will, he awarded his property

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1 Carlisle, p. 130.

2 Subsequent revisions of the will are discussed in Carlisle, pp. 130-133; CSPD, Charles I, Vol. II (1628-1629), p. 550; CSPD, Charles I, Vol. V (1631-1633), p. 233; and CSPD, Charles I, Vol. X (1636-1637), p. 161. I wrote to the British Public Records Office regarding the original minutes of the trial that ensued over Peter Bland's will and was informed that it consisted of 14 closely written pages on thin membrane paper, which over the years had been transposed, one page upon the other. My calculation was that such minutes would not copy well enough to merit the investment. It should be noted also that Peter was not, as might have been expected, designated executor or trustee in the will of his brother, Thomas, in 1617. This may be further evidence that his mental faculties were impaired.

3 Carlisle, p. 131.

to his children and grandchildren. But then mischief ensued. As literary wisdom has it, a strong-box with three keys at the start of a story assures that by story's end the three keys must unlock the strong-box. Inexorably, it was done. Lownes entered into a conspiracy with Peter's manservant, Hoskins, whereby Hoskins wrote a spurious letter to Baldwin, which purported to be signed by Peter Bland, giving Baldwin permission to turn his key over to Hoskins. Then, as Carlisle says, "the chest wherein the said box with three locks was kept, was opened, and what is become of that will cannot be discovered."[1] By now, however, Peter was a very old man, "weak in body and understanding by reason of his age"[2] (his actions suggest senility). So enfeebled, Peter was euchred by Lownes into writing yet two more successive wills in July and November 1624, and strengthening Lownes' executive powers. On June 25, 1625, Lownes posted a 4,000 pound surety bond with Peter, as security for his actions as Peter's executor, and as a codicil, secured a promise from Peter of a fee amounting to 1150 pounds. Two days later, Lownes totally hornswoggled and subverted Peter, having him sign yet a fifth will which relieved Lownes of the necessity for his 4,000 pound surety bond, and yet more firmly secured Lownes' fee of 1150 pounds from Peter.

As the language of John Bland's will indicates, he was absolutely livid with Lawrence Lownes. A trial of Lownes, Hoskins and Lownes' lawyer was held subsequently (between 1628-1631), and each of the

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

three men were found guilty, fined and jailed. Undoubtedly, charges were pressed by John Bland.[1]

The question that begs an answer is, where was John Bland during all this? It is intriguing that he held the third key (three were necessary to open the strong-box) and must have had a part in opening it, perhaps because he believed the veracity of the forged note written by Hoskins in Peter Bland's name to Baldwin. Whatever, John Bland's consent was required before the strong-box could be opened. Perhaps the forged letter is the source of John's claim that "Lownes played the knave with me." But what does that expression mean? One must remember that John Bland was an immensely intelligent and successful merchant at that time, very much involved in the Grocer's Company, and a member of the governing board of the Virginia Company of London. Could he have been so easily played for a knave? Surely, John was not deceived into opening his brother's three times secured strong-box, and then simply turning the matter over to Lownes, in the absence of Baldwin. Also, John surely would have known that Peter's judgment was none too sound. By the time the will had been rewritten four times, he certainly should have understood that something was amiss (he would almost certainly have had to know of the revisions and as executor, to have given consent to them). Finally, when the fifth and final will of Peter Bland cut his own children and grandchildren out of the picture in favor of Lownes, John Bland must have known about it.

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1 Carlisle, pp. 132-133.

I believe the answer to the riddle may be found in understanding of the unusually severe strictures in capital fluidity placed upon landed English families by the practice of primogeniture. Typically, the father's estate was passed in unbreakable entail to the eldest son (in the case at hand, from Adam to Peter). Younger siblings and children were at the mercy of the older brother, and had no chance of inheriting or using family capital until the older brother died. In this, the older brother was legally bound to observe the rules, which quite often prevented him from adequately caring for the welfare of his own children, who had to take hind seat to the next eldest brother in line. This appears to have been the problem with Peter Bland and his brothers. Historian Lawrence Stone hit the nail right on the head when he described such predicaments as micawberish, with younger sons waiting around for something to happen, namely, a timely death by the elder brother.[1]

Peter Bland lived an unusually long time for the 16th century, approximately 70 years. Further, when he made up his will, his (the family) estate was not devised to the next eldest son of Adam Bland (who would be Thomas Bland), but to Peter's children, who were all daughters.[2] This may well have angered Peter's brothers. His next eldest brother in 1615 was Thomas Bland, but Thomas died in 1617 or 1618, leaving only Gregory Bland and the youngest son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, John Bland.

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1 Lawrence Stone, The Family, Sex and Marriage in England, 1500-1800 (1978), pp. 87-88, sums up the problems of primogeniture nicely.

2 That Peter Bland allowed a nephew by marriage, Lawrence Lownes, to become so deeply involved, may suggest a basic distrust of his brothers. The mistrust may have been justified by some objective wrong his brothers did to Peter, or it may have been a product of his assumed mental dysfunction. At any rate, alienation between the brothers appears to underlie the surface issues.

My conclusion is simple. It is that John Bland, who was a man of about fifty when Peter revised his will making him the co-executor, and whose fortunes as a merchant were obviously on the rise, took advantage of Peter's vulnerability, that is, he was a conspirator with Lownes to break the entails that bound the family estate to Peter Bland. It may be that Lownes somehow doublecrossed John, and went too far in his own greed, thus goading John Bland into his angry denunciation of Lownes in his 1627 will. Or it may be that John Bland's anger was contrived and that his accusation in his will of deceit by Lownes and Gregory Bland, was a smoke screen, in which case Lownes was no more than an accomplice.

Whether and to what extent Gregory Bland was involved in all this, is conjectural. He was not a party in the trial that resulted in Lowne's imprisonment. Yet John Bland's denunciation of Gregory at the same time he denounced Lownes is indicative that Gregory also was involved in the dirty business. John was an immensely powerful man by this time, and it may be that he simply disowned Gregory, threatened him with reprisals, and drove him out of town, for tradition has it that Gregory moved to Ireland.[1] Perhaps Gregory joined Lownes in somehow attempting to doublecross John Bland, who was unwilling to face the obliquity of sending his brother to jail--the trial was held in the Star Chamber--and simply drove Gregory out of London.

If this analysis is correct, the effects on the family were far reaching. First of all, Thomas Bland died before he could claim right to the family estate under the rules of primogeniture. Second, the

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[1] Thoresby, p. 208

family estate was probably added to the already enormous wealth of John Bland. It is important to note that John Bland wrote his will in 1627, five years before his death. In it, he assigned his wealth to his wife, with clear provisions for his own male children, upon their majority. He also excluded, as Carlisle writes, "with severity,"[1] both Gregory Bland and Lawrence Lownes, as well as their children. To the extent he had reclaimed the family estate, it was sequestered to the use of his sons.

Now, it is a central theme of this book, yet to be developed, that both Thomas and John had children and grandchildren who settled in Virginia. The record makes it apparent that the children of John Bland had enormous financial resources with which to settle, while the grandchildren of Thomas Bland who settled in Virginia and Maryland, though certainly not poor, lacked such abundant means. This imbalance of wealth was critical to the later delineation of settlement by the family called The James River Blands (John Bland's descendants) and the Stafford County Blands (Thomas Bland's descendants). (See Chapters IV, V and VI.) Indeed, impact upon the family's development and status in Virginia was substantial through the period of the American Revolution.

Thomas Bland: Third Generation

The fourth child, and third son, of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, was Thomas Bland, who was born about 1558 and died sometime between November 18, 1617, when he made his will, and May 15, 1618, when his will was proved. Thomas was said by Carlisle to be "in the law" and undersheriff of Middlesex County. Thoresby and Hunter identify him as an attorney.[2]

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1 Carlisle, p. 129.

2 Thoresby, p. 584; Hunter, p. 422; Carlisle, p. 134.

Thomas and his family have been overlooked by many genealogists of the Bland family, although his descendants may be as important to American Bland families as Adam Bland's final son, John (1572-1632). It is commonly recognized that at the dawn of the 18th century there were two major families of Blands in Virginia: (1) the so-called "James River Blands" who descended from Adam through John and his wife, Susan Deblere. The other family was headed by James Bland, a man who was born sometime before 1662 and died in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1708. James' parentage is shrouded in mystery and direct evidence linking him to the James River family has to date stubbornly resisted detection. The quest for the parentage of James Bland has long been a subject of fascination for genealogists and it is one of the primary themes of this study.

During some research at the Virginia State Library on October 14-16, 1980, I came across a reference to a document held at the University of Virginia Library, deposited there by Miss Urilla Moore Bland, of Weston, West Virginia, who traced her ancestry to James Bland through his eldest son, William Bland. Further investigation revealed to me that indeed the University of Virginia Library held two distinct documents written by Miss Bland, containing between them a synopsis of practically all the evidentiary sources ever gathered about the two families.[1] Miss Bland has developed a line of inquiry, with substantial help from an attorney from New York City, Mr. Leslie Dawson, based upon

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[1] Urilla Moore Bland, "Additional Collections for the Ancient Family of Bland," University of Virginia, Alderman Library Acc. No. 9895-b (1974), hereafter referred to as UMB I, and Urilla Moore Bland, "Bland Family, Revised," University of Virginia, Alderman Library Acc. No. 9895-P (1977), hereafter referred to as UMB II.

her unitary vision of a linkage of the two families, which joins together, according to Miss Bland, with Adam (second generation, 1558-1618), his son, George (fourth generation), and his grandson, Thomas (fifth generation) whom Urilla Bland believes was the father of James Bland, of Stafford County. In Chapter VI of this study, I will explore fully the research and conclusions of Miss Bland and her collaborator, Mr. Dawson. For the present. I would like to develop as fully as possible the extant information about Thomas Bland, what I believe were his two marriages, and his children.

Traditionally, Thomas is said to have had three wives: (1) Alice Garmain; (2) Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley; and (3) Mary Catcher Moody. I believe he had only two.

My conclusion is based upon available information about Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley before she married Thomas Bland. The parish registers of All Hallows Honey Lane, London, show that Elizabeth Harrison was born November 3, 1549 to Robert Harrison and Margaret Bennett. She married William Yeardley (spelled in the Honey Lane register "Eardley") on January 2, 1569/1570. Elizabeth Harrison and William Yeardley then moved to the Parish of St. Martins, in Ludgate, and had a family of seven children:

Margaret, baptized October 22, 1570
Ann, baptized November 25, 1571
John, baptized June 24, 1573
Elizabeth, baptized January 1, 1574/1575
Joshua, baptized March 8, 1577/1578
Jasper, baptized February 5, 1578/1579 (Carlisle says that Jasper died in 1639)
Mary, baptized November 3, 1583

Five of these children (John and Joshua died young) were mentioned in Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley Bland's will of 1593, and some were also mentioned in the 1617 will of Thomas Bland, their stepfather. Elizabeth's

will of 1593[1] fails to mention any children by Thomas Bland, causing confusion about her status as mother of his children among genealogists, who conclude from other erroneous information that Thomas had no children by Elizabeth but had two by his last wife, Mary Catcher Moody. Elizabeth's silence in her 1593 will about her children by Thomas may be explained by contemporary legal practice which required that the balance of a widow's third of her former husband's estate revert to his heirs only, upon her death.[2] Thus, the exclusion in her will of children by Thomas Bland is consistent with contemporary practice.

William Yeardley was buried at St. Martin's Ludgate Parish on October 28, 1583,[3] while Elizabeth was pregnant with Mary, their last child. There is a gap in the records until 1587, when there appear records of three sons born to Thomas and Elizabeth Bland at St. Martin's Ludgate Parish. Thus, it is probable that Thomas Bland married Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley about 1586. This fact eliminates Alice Garmain as the first wife of Thomas Bland, as alleged by Thoresby and others.[4] The children of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley were, fourth generation:

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1 The final will of Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley Bland is invaluable in that it establishes her maiden name as Harrison, and identifies her children by her first husband. Her will is found in Waters, p. 813, and Carlisle, p. 134.

2 Morgan, The Puritan Family (1966), pp. 58-59.

3 Thoresby, p. 585. Thoresby identifies the date of Yeardley's death as 1523, obviously a typographical error.

4 The St. Gregory's register shows a Thomas Bland marrying Alice Garmain on July 12, 1590. Evidently, he was not the son of Adam Bland.

TABLE I

THE FAMILY OF ADAM BLAND OF WESTMORELAND COUNTY AND LONDON, ENGLAND: THREE GENERATIONS

John Bland, "The Martyr" (C. 1515-1555) ----- (1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

(2) Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596) about 1551

(3-1) pp. 20-22	(3-2) pp. 22-23	(3-3) pp. 23-33	(3-4) pp. 33-40	(3-5) p. 40	(3-6) pp. 40-41	(3-7) pp. 40-41
Robert (C. 1552, died prior to 1559)	Jane (C. 1554, died after 1591), married William Hope.	Peter (C. 1557-1625), married Susan _____.	Thomas (C. 1558-1618), married Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley; Mary Catcher Moody.	Elizabeth (1560, died after 1627), married William Burie.	Frances (1561-1566)	Richard (1562, died in infancy)

(3-8) pp. 40-41	(3-9) pp. 41-48	(3-10) pp. 48-50	(3-11) p. 51	(3-12) p. 51	(3-13) p. 52
John (C. 1563-1564)	William (1566-1596), married Judith Wood.	Gregory (1567, died after 1627), married but wife unknown.	Jasper (1568-1596)	Mary (1569, died before 1617), married ____ Gilbie.	John (1572-1632), married Susan Deblere.

------ Assumed or hypothetical.

_____ Proven.

C. = circa (approximately)

TABLE II

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS BLAND OF LONDON:

FOUR GENERATIONS

(1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

(2) Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596)

(3) Thomas Bland (C. 1558-1618) = (a) Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley (1549-1593) about 1586; and

(b) Mary Catcher Moody (1566-died after 1617).*

(4-1)	(4-2)	(4-3)	(4-4)
Robert (1587-died young)	George (1589-1648); married Anne Caunte in 1610.	William (1590-died young)	Elizabeth (1593-died after 1627); married Edward Holmwood in 1620.

* Thomas Bland and Mary Catcher Moody had no children.

Robert, baptized September 10, 1587, and William, baptized March 21, 1590/1591, must have died young. They are not mentioned in the subsequent wills of Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley of 1593, Thomas Bland of 1617, or John Bland of 1627. The only surviving children then were George, second son of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley, who was baptized at St. Martin's Ludgate on August 10, 1589, and was buried on June 10, 1648, in St. Antholin's Parish. London. Thomas also had a fourth child, a daughter by Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley, whose name was Elizabeth. She is established by other sources, but there is no record of her baptism in the St. Martin Parish register. Elizabeth was logically named for her mother (or perhaps also for Queen Elizabeth) and would have had to be born within a narrow time span between January 1592 and the time of her mother's death on July 19 or 20, 1593. These are the dates that Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley Bland made and proved her will, indicating that death came swiftly for her, perhaps in trauma following the birth of Elizabeth.

In his will of May 16, 1648, George Bland (fourth generation) asks to be remembered as "George Bland, only son of Thomas Bland of London, Esquire, by Elizabeth, his first wife."[1] Such clear language reinforces the elimination of Alice Garmain as the first wife of Thomas Bland, and also eliminates Mary Catcher Moody as the mother of George. Hunter is the first genealogical source I know of to assert that Mary Catcher Moody, Thomas' second wife, was the mother of George and Elizabeth Bland. Hunter's information may have come from the Catcher pedigree of 1633,

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1 Carlisle, p. 317.

which identifies George and Elizabeth as the children of Mary.[1] Since Mary was in fact the stepmother of the two children, some latitude for confusion must be granted to Mr. Hunter. George also mentioned a "sister," Catherine, in his will.[2] It is possible, but the evidence does not support it, that Catherine was a child of Thomas Bland through Mary Catcher Moody, but most likely she was only a sister-in-law or half-sister, related to George through marriage. This view is strengthened by the fact that no Catherine Bland is mentioned in Thomas Bland's will of 1617, though she almost certainly would have been if she were a natural child of Thomas.

So George Bland (1589-1648, fourth generation) was the only son of Thomas Bland who survived to adulthood and married. He was probably the George Bland of St. Ann's Blackfriar's Parish (which was later part of St. Gregory's and St. Martin's Parishes) who married Anne Caunte, age 24, a widow from St. Peter's Cornhill Parish, at Tottenham High Cross Church in Middlesex County on September 25, 1610.[3] Thomas Bland, his father, one may recall, was a sheriff of Middlesex County. Carlisle indicates that as an adult, George Bland moved to Arundel in Sussex County. It is probable that his son, Thomas (fifth generation) was born at the Aldingbourne Parish in Sussex on August 3, 1612. Of this later Thomas, we know only that he was certainly living by the time of his grandfather's will in November 1617. Positive identification of George's son, Thomas, as the same Thomas who lived in Maryland between

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1 Hunter, p. 422, and A. V. Hughes Clark, Miscellania Genealogica Heraldica, Fifth Series (1918-1919), p. 114.

2 Carlisle, p. 139.

3 John Foster, London Marriage Licenses, 1521-1869 (1889), p. 139.

about 1665-1699, and further linkage of this man with James Bland, is the essential deduction of Miss Urilla Bland. My own conclusion, discussed in depth in Chapter VI, varies from Urilla Bland's. It is that George's son Thomas was the father of Thomas Bland, the attorney of Maryland, who in turn was the father of James Bland, who died in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1708.

Of Thomas' daughter Elizabeth (fourth generation) little is known of her except that she married Edward Holmwood at St. Antholin's Parish on October 26, 1620, and she is mentioned by John Bland in his will of 1627 as "Elizabeth, my cousin Holmwood, and each of her children." There may be an in-law or cousin relationship between Elizabeth and the John Holmwood of Charles City County, Virginia, who was the lawyer of Edward Bland (1613-1652) and Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) and who married Edward's widow.

Before leaving Thomas Bland (1558-1618), I would like to outline as fully as possible the life of his second wife, Mary Catcher Moody. She was born to John Catcher of London, on February 14, 1566/1567 in St. Peter the Poor Parish, where she was married to Thomas Moody, Grocer to Queen Elizabeth, on December 2, 1583.[1] By Moody, she had five children: Edward, William, Margaret, Emma and Ellyn,[2] all of whom are mentioned in Thomas Bland's will of 1617. I have not been able to determine the precise birthdate of these children, but it is reasonable to assume that they were born over a decade between 1584-1594.

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1 The fact that Mary was born, raised and married in St. Peter the Poor Parish may establish some linkage, in terms of geographic proximity, for the Bland family development discussed in Chapter VI.

2 James Bland, of Stafford County, Virginia, had a son, William, and a daughter, Ellyn.

This would make it probable that Moody died about 1594, and that Mary married Thomas Bland within a few years. Since Mary was only 28 or 29 when her first husband died, it would seem likely that she was able to bear children for Thomas for many years. Yet there is no evidence in the will of Thomas Bland (1617), or the Catcher Pedigree of 1633, that Thomas Bland and Mary Catcher Moody had any children. Since Thomas mentioned his own children and the children of Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley and Mary Catcher Moody by their previous marriages, it is logical that he would have mentioned any natural children that he had by Mary Catcher Moody. Therefore, one must assume that his only children were by Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley.

Elizabeth Bland: Third Generation

The fifth child, and second daguther, of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, was Elizabeth (third generation) who was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish on May 12, 1560. Elizabeth's date of death is unknown, but she was evidently living in 1627, for she was mentioned in John Bland's will in present tense as "my sister Burye." She married William Burie about 1580, and they evidently lived in St. Gregory's Parish where they had five children, including Margaret, baptized January 24, 1581/1582. Margaret later married a man named Everett. A second daughter, Joan, was baptized April 19, 1583, and Ann, baptized July 12, 1586. Either Joan or Ann married a man named Rosse. Elizabeth and Edward were her children also, but their birthdates are unknown.

The Minor Children

Following Elizabeth, Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns had several children who died young. Frances (third generation), sixth child and third

daughter, was baptized July 16, 1561, and was buried March 17, 1566/1567.[1] Richard, seventh child and fourth son, was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish on January 24, 1562/1563 and died there as an infant soon after, according to Thoresby. John was buried at St. Gregory's Parish January 12, 1564/1565. Probably, he was the eighth child, born sometime after October 1563.

William Bland: Third Generation

The ninth child, and sixth son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns by my reckoning, was William Bland (third generation), baptized at St. Gregory's Parish April 5, 1566, and buried at St. Mary's White Chapel Parish on August 5, 1596. I say by my reckoning, for Thoresby and Dale, as well as Carlisle and Hunter, and also Samuel Bland's 1633 Visitation of London, indicate William was the first son. There are two reasons why this would be an illogical order for William. First, there is no evidence that William advanced very far in the Skinner's Company, although he was an adult and a member of the company when he died in 1596. If he were the oldest son, he surely would have been his father's family heir, and also logically would have succeeded his father to the office of Skinner to the Queen in 1594, but Peter did that, and Peter appears to have been the head of the family after Adam's death. Second, from the standpoint of contemporary naming practices, it is highly unlikely that William would be the first son. The genealogists who claim William was the first son, also state that William,

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[1] A minor note is that this child is often identified as a daughter Frances, born 1561, and another child, a son Francis, died in 1566/1567. My reading of the parish register's entry for the burial convinces me that the birth and burial are for the same child, a daughter named Frances.

born April 5, 1566, was one of the children who died in infancy. But there is no recorded entry of a burial for William Bland in the St. Gregory's register. Also, it would be highly unlikely that Adam and Joan would deviate from Elizabethan naming practices and give the same name to two living children. Quite often, Elizabethan children were named necronymically, thus symbolically giving new life to a dead child. This is the case with Adam and Joan's last child, John, named after the brother who died in 1564/1565. But the sense of individualism was strong enough among Elizabethans that there would not likely be a William baptized in 1566 if an earlier William was still living.[1]

William may have begun an apprenticeship in the Skinner's Company at age ten, for he received his freedom by redemption in 1583. Perhaps because he did not live very long, he did not advance far in the company, and his name is mentioned in company records only marginally. In 1587, he appealed to the company wardens for permission to purchase a "poor tenement" in Coneyhope Lane, a piece of company property. He was refused this request but advised, so to speak, that the next available piece of property would be his. The other two extant entries in company records show him being fined in 1587 and 1588 for taking some property out of Skinner's Hall "against the mind of the company," and in 1591 for attempting to sell faulty skins.[2]

In 1590, William appears to have landed a government job as one of three general customs surveyors. His job was that of an inspector,

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1 Naming practices in Tudor-Stuart England and the New World are discussed extensively by Daniel Scott Smith, "Child Naming Patterns and Family Structure Changes: Hingham, Massachusetts, 1640-1880," Paper 16-5, Newberry Papers in Family and Community Studies (University of Chicago, Ill.: 1973). Professor Smith graciously made his paper available to me.

2 Lambert, pp. 249-250, 328.

stationed primarily in London. He had no jurisdiction with London ports, but often traveled throughout the rest of the country for on-the-spot inspections.[1] For the balance of William's life, although by no exclusive fault of his, these inspector's posts were sources of conflict within the office of Elizabeth's Lord Treasurer,[2] and for that reason, William may have petitioned for another, higher position in 1594.[3] He appears to have been in the wrong place at the wrong time because he was refused: although "Bland served better than any man, Mr. Carmarden was promised the place a year ago."[4]

William married Judith Wood, a daughter of Thomas Wood of Groby Parish in Leicester County, at St. Michael's Bassishaw Parish on October 26, 1584. I believe that a full record of William and Judith's children is not available, but certainly the establishment of William as a later son of Adam, who married in 1584, would eliminate Jane Bland, who married William Hope (see discussion on pages 22 and 23) as his child. Only two children are recorded for William and Judith.

The first recorded child and son of William Bland and Judith Wood is William (fourth generation) who was born October 11, 1593, in St. John Hackney's Parish. The date of William's death is uncertain, as is his vocation, but he was trained at Emmanuel College in 1611, and received his Bachelor of Arts the same year. He was admitted at Gray's Inn on August 13, 1613.[5] He married Mary Shelley, daughter of Henry

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1 CSPD, Elizabeth, Vol. 3, pp. 393, 537. Cf. Carlisle, p. 125.

2 William's role in his customs job is briefly discussed by Frederick Deitz, English Public Finance: 1558-1641 (1932), pp. 322-324.

3 CSPD, Elizabeth, Vol. 3, p. 570.

4 Ibid.

5 Venn and Venn, p. 165. Cf. Joseph Foster, Collectiana Genealogica, Vol. I (1882), p. 74.

Shelley of Parham Parish in Sussex County. The date of their marriage is uncertain, but they had one recorded son, Peter (fifth generation), who was born at St. Margaret Westminister's Parish on October 17, 1620.[1] Peter was only thirteen when his uncle, Samuel Bland, completed the Bland entry for the Visitation of London in 1633. Hunter only mentions him, and Thoresby and Dale are completely silent about him. He is mentioned in no parish records I have seen, except for the bare information about his birth. Carlisle confirms that he studied at Gray's Inn and "was a bold and multifarious writer" during the early years of the Civil War.[2]

In his writings (he was a pamphleteer), Peter first came down on the side of King Charles I, as evidenced by the title of his first essay, "A Royall Position Whereby 'tis Proved that 'tis Against the Common Laws of England to Depose a King." He dedicated this piece to his grandfather, Henry Shelley, a parliamentarian from Sussex County, "because he is confident that nearness of relation cannot bribe his judgment."[3] That young Peter Bland's judgment may have been bribed by his grandfather, who must have gotten very close with the young man following publication of the tract, is evidenced by the different tune Peter sang in his next publication, which came out only a few months later in January 1642/1643: "An Argument in Justification of the Five

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1 John Bland's will of 1627 mentions "my cousin William Blande's children and my cousin Mary, his late Wife." The statement seems to suggest that both William and Mary were dead by 1627, and that there was more than one child.

2 Peter matriculated from Jesus College in 1636-1637 and entered Gray's Inn February 13, 1636-1637 (Venn and Venn, p. 164; Foster, Collectiana Genealogica, p. 74).

3 Carlisle, pp. 127-129, passim.

Members, Formerly and so Virtually Clearing the Four Men Now Accused by His Majesty: Wherin 'tis Proved That the Raising of This Present Army* by Authority of Parliament is Not Treason..."[1] In 1643, Peter Bland launched a passionate attack upon Sir Isaac Pennington, then Lord Mayor of London, and a Royalist. Pennington's political life survived Bland's attack, but he later switched sides and served as a judge of Charles I, for which he was imprisoned in the Tower of London following the Restoration.[2] Whatever happened to Peter Bland is less certain than whether he ever learned his own mind.

William Bland and Judith Wood's second son was Samuel (fourth generation), with whom Judith was pregnant at the time of William's death in 1596 (identified in William's will as "the child that she now goeth withal").[3] Samuel was baptized March 26, 1597 at St. Mary's White Chapel. He is mentioned in John Bland's will of 1627, without reference to a wife. Since his first child was born in 1629, this would indicate that he married Judith Shelley, sister of his brother William's wife, and another daughter of Henry Shelley, about 1628, thereby making the children of William and Samuel (fourth generation) double first cousins. Samuel was responsible for the Bland entry in the 1633 Visitation of London. He was admitted to Emmanuel College on May 19, 1615, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1618, and was admitted to Gray's Inn on April 26, 1621.[4]

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* A reference to the army raised in opposition to Charles I.

1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Waters, p. 812.

4 Venn and Venn, p. 165. Cf. Foster, Collectiana Genealogica, p. 74.

By Judith Shelley, Samuel had six children, including four sons and two daughters.

Anna (fifth generation) was baptized at St. Martin's in the Fields Parish on November 29, 1629, and was buried there on March 1, 1629/1630.

George Bland (fifth generation) was baptized February 8, 1630/1631 at St. Martin's in the Fields and was buried at St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury Parish on July 31, 1658. Very little is known about George. Evidently, he died unmarried and without issue. It is probable, however, that he is the same George Bland who wrote a long letter to his cousin, John Bland (1612-1680) pleading that he was starving in a Spanish jail. The story follows:

In October 1655, the Cromwell regime commenced hostile military action against Spain, threatening the commercial interests of John Bland (1612-1680, second son of John Bland, 1572-1632, son of Adam Bland), both in Spain and in the Canary Islands. With a catlike agility, however, John Bland landed on his feet by securing a contract to provision the British fleet and sent his cousin George, who styled himself John's "kinsman and loyal subject" into the war zone to carry out the contract, perhaps also to assist John's brother William (1622-1658) who was already in Spain. Presently, however, British military support was withdrawn from the area, leaving private merchants to shift for themselves. The upshot was that George Bland was taken prisoner and left to rot, by what he describes as "cruel captors. Had we been among the Turks we should a' had a better passage than we

received from these people."[1] This passage is from a letter from George Bland to John Bland dated March 17, 1657/1658 which did not reach John until ten months later. Since this date is only a few months before George Bland's recorded burial, the letter may well have been his last communication, and it may be that he was disposed of by the Spaniards, and the parish record of his burial was only a memorial service.

The third child, and second son of Samuel Bland and Judith, was Samuel (fifth generation) who was baptized December 16, 1632, at St. Michael's Bassishaw Parish. The date of his death is uncertain. Carlisle says that he was "one of the gentlemen of the band of pensioners"[2] and he is referred to variously in parish records as a "gentlemen," suggesting that he was well off. Certainly, he married well. His wife was Elizabeth Longueville, daughter of a baronet from Buckingham County. Samuel Bland and Elizabeth Longueville had a daughter Mary (sixth generation) who married William Hales, son of another baronet from Kent County.[3]

The fourth child, and third son of Samuel Bland and Judith Shelley was James (fifth generation), who was baptized at St. Michael's Bassishaw on March 22, 1634/1635, and was buried there June 20, 1638.

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1 Discussion of George Bland's imprisonment is found in Neville Williams, "The Trials and Tribulations of John Bland, Merchant," Virginia Magazine of History and Biography (hereafter noted VMHB), Vol. 72 (1964), pp. 23-24. This article, while brief and fragmentary in nature, and unaware of the family connections it sometimes describes, is nonetheless useful in that it clarifies some facts about the family and draws attention to otherwise obscured sources.

2 I do not have the slightest idea what this means.

3 Carlisle, p. 129.

(It should be noted that he is the first James Bland in this family line during the 16th and 17th centuries.)

Thomas Bland (fifth generation), fifth child, and fourth son of Samuel Bland and Judith Shelley, was baptized at St. Mary the Virgin Aldermanbury Parish on November 8, 1642, and was buried there December 29 1642.

Jane Bland (fifth generation), sixth child, and second daughter of Samuel Bland and Judith Shelley, was baptized at St. Mary the Virgin Parish on February 25, 1643/1644. There is an entry in the parish records that John Paradise married Jane Bland, "of the parish," on May 10, 1660.

Gregory Bland: Third Generation

The tenth child, and seventh son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns was Gregory (third generation), who was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish April 22, 1567. It is not certain when he died or where. His denunciation by John Bland has been discussed. It indicates that as late as 1627 he was still alive and had sons and daughters. John's attack on him strongly suggests that Gregory was involved in the attempt to strip Peter Bland of the family estate. One source identifies Gregory as a merchant tailor who invested 25 pounds in the Virginia Company of London.[1] Thoresby indicates that Gregory moved to Ireland.[2] He was in London at the time of Thomas Bland's will of 1617. His subsequent disappearance suggests that John Bland ran him out of town over the Peter Bland business.

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1 Alexander Brown, The Genesis of the United States (1890), p. 829.

2 Thoresby, p. 208.

I have never been able to identify Gregory's wife but it is obvious that by 1627 he had several children (not unusual, for he would have been sixty by then), and that John Bland's enjoinder against them was not a codicil against future children by Gregory, but aimed specifically at his living children. As we shall see, fate did play the knave with John Bland when, after John's death, one of Gregory's daughters married John's third son, Edward (1613-1652).

Gregory's family is difficult to construct, for we do not know who he married or when, and where they lived, but entries in the parish registers as well as some literary evidence make it possible to complete at least a cursory sketch.

Thoresby reports that Gregory had two daughters, and other genealogists copy this information. The eldest was Frances, and according to Thoresby she went to Charles City, Virginia at "near fifty years of age,"[1] and married John Coggan, a "chirugeon" or physician, who undoubtedly was one of the most colorful rascals to cross these pages, and who will be discussed in the next chapter. Thoresby also states that Frances died in Virginia in 1677 and was buried at Westover, the family estate in Virginia.[2] It is fairly certain that Frances came to Virginia in 1653,[3] in all probability going there to be with her younger sister, who had been widowed by Edward Bland's death in 1652.

Judging from Thoresby's information then, it would seem reasonable to place her birthdate at about 1603, indicating that she lived from

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1 Thoresby, p. 585.

2 Ibid.

3 Fleet, Vol. 22, p. 12. Frances Bland was headright of Captain Henry Fleet, October 24, 1653.

1603 to 1677. By the time she met and married Coggan in Virginia, she was too old to bear children.

The age of Gregory's second daughter Jane (fourth generation) is similarly difficult to fix, but I have seen one source that makes her two years younger than Frances.[1] If so, Jane would have been born about 1605. Thoresby and Dale indicate that she died in Charles City County about 1664 and was buried at Westover, making her dates approximately 1605 to 1664.

As stated earlier, Gregory Bland had the last laugh on old John Bland, for Jane married John's third son, Edward. Surely this union would have had to occur after the death of John Bland (1632), and probably after Edward reached the age of consent (1634), for one cannot imagine John Bland's wife, Susan Deblere, granting her consent. The family of Edward and Jane will be discussed more fully under the discussion about Edward Bland (1613-1652). Following Edward's death, Jane Bland married John Holmwood, who had been her husband's lawyer and served her brother-in-law, Theodorick Bland, in the same capacity.

A son of Gregory Bland is not mentioned by the Bland genealogists, but is suggested by the language of John Bland's will. If it is correct that Frances and Jane were born in London about 1603 to 1605, their births would be in chronological proximity to a son, Peter Bland, born to Gregory Bland in St. Margaret Patten's Parish, February 5, 1614/1615.

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[1] Zella Armstrong, "Notable Southern Families: The Bland Family," Lookout Publishing Company (Chatanooga, Tennessee: August 5, 1916). I have never seen this article and have been unable to find it in various searches. It is quoted in a work by my cousin, Margaret Bland Magliocco, who is unable to find the article. The information given by Mrs. Magliocco indicates that Mrs. Armstrong's dates are consistently wrong, but her ordering of the Bland family is correct.

Jasper Bland: Third Generation

Jasper Bland (third generation) was the eleventh child, and eighth son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. He was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish October 28, 1568, and was buried there on December 28, 1596. He died unmarried and without issue. His brother, Gregory, served as executor of his will.[1]

Mary Bland: Third Generation

Mary Bland (third generation) was the twelfth child, and fourth daughter of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. She was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish on January 22, 1569/1570. The date of Mary's death is uncertain. She married _____ Gilbie (Gilby, Gill or Gillye). The date of her marriage and exact order of children is likewise uncertain, but she had a daughter, Judith. Her brother, Thomas, left a bequest to "My Goddaughter Judith Gilbie and the children of my sister Gilbie." Two months later, this Judith Gilbie married the infamous Lawrence Lownes, so that she became one of several in the family to be denounced by John Bland when he made his will in 1627:

> To my brother Gillye forty shillings and to each of his children by my sister forty shillings apiece, Judith Lownes not to have anything, the wife of Lawrence Lownes...[2]

Judith Gilbie Lownes was the daughter of Mary. It is possible that Mary and her husband also had a son, whose daughter or granddaughter subsequently married a cousin, Edward Bland (C. 1635-1690) in Virginia, son of Edward Bland (1613-1652).

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1 Bruce's Randolph Collection, Virginia State Library, Richmond, Acquisition Number 20232, Box 3, Folder 7, October 27, 1967.

2 Waters, p. 813.

John Bland: Third Generation

The thirteenth and final child, and ninth son of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns, was John Bland (third generation). John was baptized at St. Gregory's Parish on September 28, 1572. He died suddenly on April 20, 1632,[1] and was buried two weeks later in the same coffin with his youngest daughter, Joan Amy, on May 5, 1632.

During his life, John was a very successful merchant, with connections in France and Germany, in Plaistow, Essex County, and also was a shareholder and prominent member of the Virginia Company of London. He was admitted to the freedom of the Grocer's Company in 1626, and was elected Warden of the Company in 1629.[2] Inasmuch as he was fifty-four at the time he gained his freedom, very likely he entered the grocer's guild by redemption (by paying the price of membership), meaning that he was not trained through apprenticeship, but was a part of the merchant elite of London that were nominally members of the great livery companies in order to gain better commercial connections in the provinces.

The above information should deflect the casual reader from an assumption that John, who is often called "John, the Grocer," was an operator of a corner food market. Like the Skinner's Company, the Grocers were one of London's twelve great livery companies, ranking second in the city behind the Mercers. The company derived its name from the guild of pepperers during the 14th century who later became

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1 Richard Smith, Obituary's: 1623-1674, Camden Society Publications, Vol. 44.

2 W. W. Grantham, List of the Wardens of the Grocer's Company from 1345 to 1907 (London: 1907), p. 25.

TABLE III

THE FAMILY OF GREGORY BLAND OF LONDON AND IRELAND: FOUR GENERATIONS

(1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

(2) Adam Bland (1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (1530-1596)

(3) Gregory Bland (1567-died after 1627) = ???

(4-1)	(4-2)	(4-3)
Frances (1603-1677)	Jane (1605-1664)	Peter (1614-??)
Married John Coggan.	Married (a) Edward Bland, her cousin (1613-1652); and (b) John Holmwood.	(Nothing is known about Peter.)

TABLE IV

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF LONDON: FOUR GENERATIONS

(1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

(2) Adam Bland (1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (1530-1596)

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4-1)	(4-2)	(4-3)	(4-4)	(4-5)	(4-6)	(4-7)	(4-8)
Mary (1607-died after 1652), married Emmanuel Proby.	Susannah (1609-died in Stafford County, Virginia after 1664), married Thomas Pearson	Thomas (1610-1678), married (a) Elizabeth Witham, (b) Anne Jegon, (c) Katherine Sandys.	John (1612-1680), married Sarah Greene (1624-1712).	Edward (1613-1652), married Jane Bland (1605-1664), his cousin.	Adam (1616-1647), did not marry.	Robert (1617-1669), married Mary Hinton.	Anne (1619-?), married Stephen Jackson.

(4-9)	(4-10)	(4-11)	(4-12)	(4-13)	(4-14)	(4-15)	(4-16)
Elizabeth (1620-died after 1673), married William Beard.	William (1622-died after 1658), did not marry.	Hester (1623-1624)	Richard (1624-1692), married Jane Lane Pott.	Rachel (1626-1633)	Arnold (1627-1634)	Theodorick (1629-1671), married Anna Bennett (1639-1687) in 1660.	Joan Amy (1631-1632)

known as "grossers" or those merchants who dealt in large quantities of goods and merchandise.[1]

John Bland's business affairs with the Virginia Company of London will be discussed in the next chapter. In this chapter, I will concentrate on John Bland's family in England, with a postscript upon the life of his remarkable wife, Susan Deblere,[2] whom he married about 1606. Susan is said to have been born about 1590. She was the daughter of _____ and Marie Deblere, but the place of her birth remains uncertain. She is often referred to as a Huguenot (a French Protestant) and was perhaps living in England when she met John Bland. Susan was buried on February 7, 1664/1665. She lived with John Bland evidently in several parishes including sequentially, St. Gregory's, St. Mary the Virgin, St. Stephen Coleman's, and St. Antholin's Parish on Sythe Lane, where John Bland and Susan Deblere died and were buried. John and Susan lived together for twenty-six years and in his will he calls her "my well beloved wife, Susan." John and Susan had together a very large family, including one child who was stillborn on August 20, 1621, with no reference to sex, nine sons and seven daughters (Susan was pregnant for thirteen of the twenty-six years she was married to John).

Six of John and Susan's children migrated to Virginia and died there. Twelve of their children lived to adulthood, and ten married. Those who married tended to marry well.

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1 William Herbert, The History of the Twelve Great Livery Companies of London, 2 volumes (London: 1837), is the standard work on the great companies. Cf. Vol. 1, pp. 297-388, for the Grocers; Vol. II, pp. 299-382, for the Skinners.

2 Susan's maiden name has been often mispronounced: Duclere, Ducleer, Dubleer, etc. The recorder of the St. Antholin's Parish register called her name Doubler. I have chosen Deblere, from the Will of John Bland (1627) which was closest to Susan in time.

Mary Bland

The first child, and first daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere was Mary (fourth generation), who was baptized November 11, 1607, "in the howse of Peyter Bland," at St. Gregory's Parish. Mary married Emmanuel Proby on June 8, 1626. Emmanuel was a son of Sir Peter Proby, who was active in the Grocer's Company and was elected Lord Mayor of London in 1622.[1] The Proby entry for the Visitation of London in 1633, shows that by then Emmanuel and Mary had two sons, Peter and George, and a daughter Susan. By 1643, the couple were living at the home of John Bland (1612-1680), Mary's younger brother, in St. Olaves Parish, Hart Street. There Mary gave birth to an infant son, Nathaniel, on March 8, 1643/1644 and buried him fifteen days later. The following year Mary gave birth to a daughter, Elizabeth, who was baptized on April 22, 1645.

George Proby, son of Emmanuel Proby and Mary Bland, went to Virginia in 1647 with Edward Bland, his uncle.[2] There is no further mention of him in London, so I presume he died in Virginia. Peter Proby married Grace Ford on April 27, 1656 at St. Olaves Parish. Peter was buried at St. Olaves on November 2, 1684. He may have had a son Peter, who migrated to Virginia, married Jane Servant there, and died in 1692.[3]

It is probable that Emmanuel Proby died about 1652, for in that year John Bland, his brother-in-law, joined with Proby's executor to gain release of some money due Bland by the government, because John

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1 Joseph Aubrey Rees, The Worshipful Company of Grocers , an Historica Retrospect (London: 1923), App. I, p. 189.

2 Nell Marian Nugent, Cavaliers and Pioneers, Vol. I (1934), p. 171. Two subsequent volumes of Nugent's work appeared in 1977 and 1979. Hereafter, this work is referred to as Nugent, with volumes indicated.

3 VMHB Vol 22 p 323

Bland owed Proby "a very considerable amount of money" when Proby died. The amount of money Bland petitioned for was 2,480 pounds. During the proceedings, John described the Proby family's plight as "desperate." After much delay, a fraction of the money was released to John Bland who turned most of it over to his sister Mary, Proby's widow.[1] Following Proby's death, Mary Bland Proby married Thomas Neville. The date of her death is uncertain.

Susannah Bland

The second child, and second daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Susannah (fourth generation) who was baptized on October 29, 1609 at St. Mary the Virgin Parish. Very little is known about Susan, but John Bland's reference to her in his will of 1627 implies she was single. By May 5, 1632, the registers of St. Antholin's Parish shows a Susannah, daughter of Thomas and Susan Pearson, christened.[2] Apparently then, Susan married her husband, Thomas Pearson, who came from the Isle of Ely, one of the channel islands, sometime between 1628 and 1631. Thomas and Susan ultimately moved to Virginia and died there. Thomas must have gone first, for he is seen in Henrico County in 1639. He must have returned to London, for on December 1, 1645, Susan gave birth to Marian Bland at her brother

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1 Williams, "The Trials and Tribulations of John Bland," pp. 22-23.

2 The child christened this day must have been the Susannah Pearson West who received a land grant in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1698. Her christening must have been a sweet moment in an otherwise bleak day, when John Bland and his daughter, Joan Amy, were laid to rest.

John's home at St. Olaves, Hart Street. The Pearsons also had a son, Thomas. Their daughter Susan married a John West in Stafford County, Virginia, and had by him, John West.[1]

Thomas Bland

The third child, and first son and heir of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Thomas (fourth generation), who was baptized March 3, 1610/1611 at St. Mary the Virgin Parish, and was buried September 26, 1678. Thomas was a lawyer who studied at the Inner Temple in 1628.[2] He received a joint appointment with his brother, John (1612-1680) from King Charles I on June 25, 1640, as Receiver of the King's Rents from York County, surely as lucrative a patronage plum as a king could dispense to a commoner. This appointment got caught up in the political turmoil of the 1640's between King and Parliament, and was rescinded by Parliament in 1648, with a claim that John and Thomas owed 6,000 pounds, and that the money should be paid from their private

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1 William and Mary Quarterly, (1st Series), Vol. 10, pp. 64-65. The Quarterly is published in three series. Hereafter in notes, the journal will be referred to according to its series, e.g., WMG (1), pp. 64-65.

2 W. G. Cooke, Students Admitted to the Inner Temple, 1547-1660 (1877), p. 255. Chapter IV will make it clear that John Bland, the Grocer's, second son John (1612-1680) was in fact the manager of the family business affairs, whether or not he was his father's heir. It should be noted that while all of John, the Grocer's sons were minors, when he made his will in 1627, by 1632 when John died, his son Thomas was over 21 and could have taken over business affairs. Yet it appears he didn't. A satisfactory explanation for this apparent contradiction has never been found.

funds.[1] A few months later, the charge was rescinded and Thomas was restored to the position, which he held apparently until at least 1673.[2] Thomas lived in Plaistow and Westham in Essex County, and toward the end of his life, held positions as guardian, collector, and bailiff for Westham.

Thomas had three wives and no children that lived to adulthood. He married Elizabeth Witham on July 14, 1642, at St. Mary the Virgin Parish. Elizabeth was about thirty-eight when she married Thomas. Thomas and Elizabeth may have had one son, Thomas (fifth generation) whose birthdate is unknown, but who was identified as a "sonne of Thomas Bland" when he was buried in the St. Mary the Virgin Parish on July 19, 1646.

I have been able to find nothing about the death of Elizabeth Witham Bland, but on February 20, 1673/1674, Thomas married for a second time to Anne Jegon, of Putney in Surrey County. Anne is identified as a widow of about thirty-two, while Thomas is called a widower of "about fifty-eight." Evidently, the pleasure he took in his young bride had knocked about five years off his age.[3]

Just a few years later, Thomas took for his third wife a young spinster, Katherine Sandys, who herself was baptized on December 25, 1638, at Beningboro Grange Parish, of Newton on Ouse, in Kent County. They were married on April 30, 1677, at the Charterhouse Chapel in London.[4] Like her predecessor, Katherine's youth must have had a

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1 This claim may be one reason John Bland had such a devil of a time getting sequestered funds released by the Cromwell government.

2 CSPD, Charles II, Vol. 14, p. 342.

3 John Foster, London Marriage Licenses: 1521-1869 (1889), p. 140.

4 Ibid., and Carlisle, p. 143.

positively beneficial effect on Thomas' outlook, for the marriage recorder estimated his age as about fifty-five. Thomas had no children by his last two wives.

John Bland

The fourth child, and second son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was John Bland (fourth generation). He is the only child of John Bland and Susan Deblere for whom I have been unable to ascertain a birthdate, but the baptismal dates of his older brother Thomas, and his younger brother Edward, reduce the chronological range to sometime between December 1611 and June 1613, so it seems quite safe to place his approximate birthdate at 1612. He died on June 8, 1680, and was buried four days later at St. Olaves Hart Street, where he lived for most of his adult life. John was a very successful merchant, who evidently took over the business affairs of his father.[1] Available literature seems to suggest that he was the decision-maker in the family, the man who decided which brother or cousin would be sent where, made appeals and petitions to the government, and in general, controlled monetary affairs.

John's relationships with the Cromwell regime seem to have been marked by conflict and difficulty, but his relationship with Charles I seems to have been smoother, and he was evidently a fully accepted member of the merchant group that affected the policies of the government of Charles II. He was close to Thomas Povey, Charles II's Master of Requests, and to the famous merchant and diarist, Samuel Pepys.

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[1] John's business relationship with his older brother Thomas, heir to John, the Grocer's estate, is unclear.

John had business interests in Tangiers, where he served as Mayor of that colony for a time in the late 1660's, in Spain, London and Virginia. John appears to have favored remaining in London, with periodic respite in Spain and Tangiers, and directing the family's business affairs from there. His sisters, brothers, cousins, wife, in-laws, and tragically for John, his only son who survived to adulthood, settled in Virginia. John Bland's business affairs and their relation to the Bland family's settlement in Virginia will be discussed in the next chapter.

About 1645, John Bland married Sarah Greene, a daughter of Giles Greene, of Purbeck in Dorset County. Sarah's father was a member of Parliament, which could have influenced his politics at the time his daughter married John Bland, but I have never seen any elaboration upon this point. Sarah's baptismal date is unknown, but if she was twenty-one when she married John, she would have lived to a very old age, for she is said by Thoresby to have died March 4, 1712/1713, and was buried at St. Olaves Hart Street.[1]

John and Sarah had three sons (fifth generation), of whom two died young. The first, John, was born September 28, 1646, and was buried at St. Olaves on January 20, 1659/1660.[2] Thomas, the third son, was baptized at St. Olaves on September 11, 1649, and was buried at St. Antholin's Parish on November 21, 1654.

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1 The registers of St. Olaves Parish which I reviewed were for 1563-1700, so I have no basis with which to challenge Thoresby's information.

2 Thoresby states that John was thirteen years, three months and twenty-six days old when he died (p. 586).

The second son of John Bland and Sarah Greene was Giles, who was baptized at St. Olaves Parish on October 26, 1647, and was hanged for his participation in Bacon's Rebellion, in Virginia, on March 27 or March 28, 1677. Chapter IV will include a full discussion of Giles' role in Bacon's Rebellion and the social and political issues that led to his execution.

Giles married Frances Povey, a daughter of Thomas Povey, mentioned previously. By her, Giles had a son John (sixth generation), born after his death, at St. Olaves Parish, in John Bland's home on November 5, 1677. Hunter calls this child "Thomas Posthumous Bland... his legitimacy doubtful." Hunter's remark appears to be spurious. Giles Bland was hanged in late March 1677, and John was born early on November 1677, a passage of seven months' time, which in itself would seem to clear Frances Povey Bland's honor. It is uncertain exactly when Giles Bland was captured and whether he was kept in solitary confinement. Actually, there is no need to rush to Frances' defense, but in the event, one would imagine that her father-in-law, John Bland, could count as well as Hunter. We may safely assume that any whiff of a scandal involving his daughter-in-law during the confinement and execution of his son, would embitter John toward Frances. Yet in his will formulated some three years after the event, John speaks warmly of Frances:

> ...a competent provision for my good daughter-in-law, Frances Bland, and my grandson, John Bland, being in his infancy, the care of whose education, piety and morality and industry I recommend with great earnestness to my said daughter-in-law, who hath had her share in the undeserved misfortunes of our unhappy familie. [1]

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[1] Carlisle, p. 146; Waters, pp. 814-815 (emphasis added by author).

Frances Povey Bland remarried a lawyer, Samuel Starkey, from New Windsdor in Berks County. John Bland, son of Giles Bland and Frances Povey, married Mary Brown, of London, about 1700, and by her had a son, John (sixth generation) called by Hunter "John Bland of the Academy." Hunter lists his dates as 1703-1756. He may be the same John Bland, scholar, who is listed in the Dictionary of National Biography, with dates of 1702-1750.[1] Whatever, he died unmarried and without issue, and his death marks the end of this branch of the Bland family.

Edward Bland

The third son, and fifth child of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Edward Bland (fourth generation), baptized at St. Stephen Coleman's Street Parish on February 5, 1613/1614. He died in Charles City County Virginia on or about May 9, 1652.[2] Like his older brother John, Edward styled himself a merchant and had business connections in London, Spain, Tangier, and Virginia. According to Carlisle, he was in Spain in 1643.[3] He was recorded on the certificate of William Carter in Virginia in 1636 and 1638, and appears to have settled in Virginia permanently about 1647.[4] Edward was educated at Westminister College, and was multi-lingual, being fluent in Spanish, French, Dutch and Latin.[5] While in Virginia he headed an exploratory party that traveled south into what is now North Carolina, and published his findings in a promotional book called The Discoverie of New Brittaine.

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1 Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. II (1902), pp. 659-660.

2 WMQ (1st Series). Vol. II (1906), pp. 89-90.

3 Carlisle, p. 297.

4 Nugent I, pp. 160, 171.

5 Richard Beale Davis, Intellectual Life in the Colonial South (1978), p. 357; cf. Allan Briceland, "The Search for Edward Bland's New Brittaine," VMHB, Vol. 87 (1979), pp. 133-134, note 17.

Edward married his first cousin, Jane Bland, daughter of his father's brother, Gregory. The date of their marriage is uncertain, although as stated earlier, the bad blood between Gregory and John Bland would have prevented it during their life times. Susan Deblere, in deference to her husband, would not have permitted it while Edward was a minor. Therefore, it is likely they were married about 1634.

Edward and Jane Bland had one child, a son named Edward (fifth generation). His birthdate is unknown, but if he was born a year after his parent's marriage, his birthdate would be about 1635. He was with Edward and Jane Bland when they came to Virginia in 1647, and he is said to have died in 1690.[1] He married Margaret Gilby (Gillie, Gillye or Gilby, Gilbie) possibly a grandchild of John Bland's (1572-1632) sister Mary (1569-). This would mean that Edward was married to his cousin by his great-aunt, who was also an aunt of his parents, who were cousins, and sister to his parent's parents. Figure that out!

Edward Bland (fifth generation) and Margaret Gilby had one son, John (sixth generation) and a daughter Sarah (sixth generation). Upon Edward's death in 1690, Margaret remarried Thomas Tanner, a planter in Virginia. Edward's son John died unmarried and intestate about 1704. Sarah married Edward New, of Henrico County, and after his death, married Alexander Horton.

By Edward New, Sarah had four children, including a son, John New, who about 1740 got into a legal dispute over possession of lands he alleged belonged to his great-grandfather, Edward Bland. The settlement

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[1] Hening, Statutes of Viginia at Large, Vol. 6, p. 303; hereafter this source will be referred to as Hening.

TABLE V

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF LONDON: FIVE GENERATIONS

(1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

(2) Adam Bland (1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (1530-1596)

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4) John Bland (1612-1680) = Sarah Greene (1624-1712)

(5-1)	(5-2)	(5-3)
John (1646-1659)	Giles (1647-1677), married Frances Povey about 1675.	Thomas (1649-1654)

TABLE VI

THE FAMILY OF EDWARD BLAND OF LONDON

AND VIRGINIA: FIVE GENERATIONS

(1) Robert or Roger Bland = ???

|

(2) Adam Bland (1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (1530-1596)

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4) Edward Bland (1613-1652) = Jane Bland (1605-1664)

(5-1)

Edward (1635-1690), married Jane Gilbie.

delineated the Bland family holdings in a way that has been helpful to genealogists.[1]

Adam Bland

The sixth child, and fourth son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Adam Bland (fourth generation) who was born at St. Stephens Parish, Coleman Street, on September 3, 1616. Thoresby indicates that he died at sea, about 1647, while on a trip to Virginia. This juxtaposition of dates makes it likely that he was enroute to Virginia with his brother Edward's party in 1647, when he died. He is said to have been a merchant with affairs in London, Spain and Virginia.[2]

Robert Bland

The seventh child, and fifth son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Robert (fourth generation) who was baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on February 22, 1617/1618. He died April 5, 1669.[3] Robert was educated at the College of Corpus Christi, where he was admitted in 1637, received his bachelor's degree in 1640, and his Master of Arts in 1644. He became a minister in 1647 and was appointed Rector of the Wigborough Magna Church in Essex County.[4]

Robert married Mary Hinton, herself the daughter of a minister from Middlesex County. Robert and Mary had five children (fifth generation) including one son and four daughters. The son, Benjamin, died during

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1 Ibid.
2 Thoresby, p. 587; Hunter, p. 423.
3 Venn and Venn, Vol. I, Pt. 1, p. 165.
4 Ibid.

childhood while serving an apprenticeship as a Linen Draper. The first daughter, Elizabeth, was born February 3, 1650/1651, and died in 1709. She married two men: (1) Joseph Ardrey, who was a half-brother or in-law of Sir Joseph Williamson, a government official to whom Giles Bland communicated in order to keep the Crown informed of developments germane to Bacon's Rebellion. Elizabeth Bland Ardrey married (2) William Smith, of Colchester. The second daughter, who had the charming name of Lovegrace, was born November 13, 1655, and died in infancy. The third daughter, Adriana, was born about 1658 and died in April 1703. She married first one Chapel, and second, a man named Prentiss, and had children by both men. The birthdate of the fourth daughter, Margaret, is unknown, but presumably she was born sometime in the 1650's. She married two men, William Greenwell and David Eniver.

Anne and Elizabeth Bland

The eighth child, and third daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Anne Bland (fourth generation) who was baptized at St. Antholin's Church on May 26, 1619. Little is known about Anne, but she married Stephen Jackson, a merchant from Suffolk County on November 7, 1645.

The ninth child, and fourth daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Elizabeth Bland (fourth generation) who was baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on August 30, 1620. Sometime after 1647, Elizabeth married a minister, William Beard, and had children by him. Both Elizabeth Bland and William Beard accompanied Edward Bland on the voyage to Virginia in 1647. William is identified in Alumni Cantabrigensis as

being born in 1613. He was admitted to Kings College in 1630 and matriculated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1633, and a Master of Arts in 1637. After he traveled to Virginia, William secured an appointment as Vicar of Cowley, in Middlesex County, from 1651-1659, and from 1660 until his death in 1686, was Rector of the Ickenham Church.[1] The date of Elizabeth Bland Beard's death is uncertain. She may have returned to Virginia, possibly to attend to some family business, in 1673.[2]

William Bland

The tenth child, and sixth son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was William Bland (fourth generation) who was baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on December 26, 1622. He is identified by Hunter as a merchant in Spain and Virgina, where he is said to have died unmarried and without issue, about 1649.[3] Other information, however, indicates that he was still alive as late as 1658. Specifically, the letter by George Bland (1630-1658) to his cousin, John Bland, in March 1657, states:

> ...did not cousin William Bland, by friendship he hath got underhand, relieve us in some measure we should have starved long since; and should he be forced away we must of necessity come to that end.[4]

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1 Venn and Venn, Pt. I, Vol. I, p. 117.

2 Peter Coldham, English Convicts in Colonial America (1974), p. 19.

3 Hunter, p. 423.

4 Williams, pp. 23-24. Cf. John McRae Sanders, Barbados Records, Wills and Administrations, 1639-1680, Vol. I, will of John Swan proved November 2, 1658, which shows William Bland as a witness.

Richard Bland

The twelfth child, and seventh son of John Bland and Susan Deblere (the eleventh child was Hester, who died as an infant and will be discussed presently) was Richard Bland (fourth generation) baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on February 11, 1624/1625. Richard died at Beeston Hall, in Leeds, York County, on November 20, 1692. Little is known of his occupation. His name appears, inter alia, with the merchant ventures of his brothers in Spain, London and Virgina, suggesting that he spent some time abroad during the 1640's (including Virgina). He gained his freedom from the company of Framework Knitters, and for the last twenty years of his life was Lord Proprietor of Beeston Hall, which appears to have been his private estate, and the source of his living. Carlisle indicates that Beeston was rich with forests, and later was discovered to be just as rich with coal.[1]

On January 3, 1650/1651, Richard married Jane Lane Pott, a daughter of William Lane and widow of Edmund Pott, both of London. Thoresby indicates that Jane was near seventy when she died at Beeston, May 19, 1694.

Richard and Jane had four sons and two daughters (fifth generation), only two of whom survived to adulthood, and only one of whom married.

Thomas Bland, first child and first son of Richard Bland and Jane Lane Pott, was baptized at St. Katharine Coleman Parish in London, December 19, 1651, and died at Hoxton Leeds, York County, September 1652. Hephzibah, second child and first daughter, was born at Hoxton, September 17, 1654, and died there January 21, 1655/1656. Samuel Bland

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1 Carlisle, p. 153.

was born at Hoxton, July 4, 1657, and died there March 11, 1657/1658. Rebecca was born at Hoxton January 24, 1658/1659, and died there, unmarried, on February 22, 1681/1682. A son, Benjamin, was born at Hoxton, April 6, 1660, and died there April 24, 1661.

The only child of Richard Bland and Jane Lane Pott to live to adulthood and to marry was Nathaniel, who was born at Hoxton, October 22, 1655. Nathaniel married Elizabeth Fisher, of London, at St. Mary Levoy Parish on April 26, 1681. Elizabeth died in 1712. Elizabeth Fisher Bland was a woman of minor literary note, of whose work Carlisle says "her literary accomplishments afford the most pleasing proof of the solidity of the female mind."[1] Her work consisted of a series of translations into Hebrew of various works of poetry (conversion of poetry from one language to another is an extremely delicate trick). Nathaniel Bland was made free of the Glover's Company of London, and was by trade, a linen draper. He succeeded his father as Lord of Beeston Manor.

Nathaniel Bland and Elizabeth Fisher had six children (sixth generation) of whom one daughter and one son lived to adulthood and married. A daughter was born on December 1681, according to Thoresby, and died immediately. Elizabeth gave birth to a stillborn son in October 1682, at Beeston. Nathaniel, a son, was born March 12, 1683/1684 at Beeston, and was buried May 1684, at a place called Bunhill Fields. Tirzah, a daughter, was born August 3, 1685, and buried at Bunhill Fields in December 1685. Joseph Bland was born December 25, 1686. He was trained in Hebrew by his mother. He married Mary Braithewaite, of Cumberland, on October 15, 1724. It is uncertain whether they had

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[1] Carlisle, p. 153. Cf. Dictionary of National Biography, Vol. II (1902), p. 658.

children. Joseph apparently lived to 102. Carlisle says he died at "a very advanced age" in London in 1788.[1]

Martha Bland, the only surviving daughter of Nathaniel Bland and Elizabeth Fisher, was baptized on November 14, 1688, and married George Moore, of Beeston, on December 15, 1709. By Moore, she had three sons and one daughter.[2]

The Minor Children

The eleventh child, and fifth daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Hester (fourth generation), who was baptized at St. Antholin's on January 18, 1623/1624, and was buried there February 5, 1625/1626.

The thirteenth child, and sixth daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was Rachel (fourth generation) who was baptized on November 14, 1626 at St. Antholin's Parish, and was buried there August 23, 1633. The fourteenth child, and eighth son, was Arnold or Arnall, baptized February 24, 1627/1628 at St. Antholin's Parish, and buried there October 18, 1634. The sixteenth child, and seventh daughter, was Joan Amy, who was baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on January 10, 1631/1632, and was buried there in the same coffin as her father on May 5, 1632. Joan Amy was the last child of John Bland and Susan Deblere.

Theodorick Bland

Before Joan Amy, John Bland and Susan Deblere had their ninth son, and fifteenth child, Theodorick, who was baptized at St. Antholin's Parish on January 16, 1629. He was buried at the Bland estate, Westover, in Charles City County, Virginia. on April 23, 1671. Like his older

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1 Carlisle, p. 155.

2 For a discussion of the family of Richard Bland and Jane Lane Pott, see Thoresby, pp. 587-588, and Carlisle, pp. 151-155.

brothers, Theodorick was a merchant in London. He was in St. Lucar, Spain in 1649, and by 1654 had come to Virginia to take over family affairs, following the death of his older brother Edward in 1652. About 1660, he married Anna Bennett, a daughter of Richard Bennett, a former governor of the Virginia Colony. Anna was born about 1637. After the death of Theodorick in 1671, she married St. Ledger Codd and eventually moved with him to Wharton Creek, Maryland, where she died about 1687.

Theodorick Bland and Anna Bennett had three sons (fifth generation) born at Westover. In this chapter I shall only identify their names and their dates of birth, saving their marriages and families for Chapter V.

The first son, Theodorick, was born at Westover in February 1663/1664. He died at Westover in November 1700. The second son, Richard, was born near Westover on August 11, 1665, and died at his estate at Jordans near the James River on April 6, 1720. The third son was John, who was born at Westover February 8, 1668/1669, moved to York County in England, and died there in 1746. He married, incidentally, Elizabeth Dale, who was a sister to Robert Dale, the informant to Ralph Thoresby, who furnished the first extensive literary source on the Bland family.[1]

The Sorrows of Susan Deblere

One of the challenges of modern genealogical and historical research is to reconstruct the lives of ordinary people, those who have gone unnoticed by elitist historians concerned only with the lives of royalty

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[1] Hunter, pp. 425-426, and Thoresby, pp. 588-589.

or great statesmen. Particularly frustrating for the genealogist is to discover an ancient ancestor, for whom nothing is available but dates of birth, marriage, children and death. Yet in most cases, that is all that remains, and even that seems bountiful in some cases. Genealogists are like anthropologists who try to create a whole picture from a bone fragment. One yearns to know so much more about these ancestors, their joys, heartaches, passions, discontents, moods, anger, the trivial and the profound about them, the color of their hair, whether they were fat or skinny, short or tall, fiery tempered or good natured, how they loved, lived, hated. One wishes for god-like power to breathe life into them, to let them live again, to know who they were and what they were like.

Unlike the anthropologist, however, the genealogist is left with fragments of words, little entries in huge tomes, snatches of experience, names in parish registers, on legal documents, a kind word in a will, "to my well beloved wife, Susan"--how many loves and passions, angry marital conflicts and penitent reconciliations must be absorbed in those few words. To recreate, the genealogist must not only read the lines on the page, but between and through the lines, to achieve some understanding.

Among those women of the early generations who married into the Bland family, Susan Deblere stands out. The purpose of this essay is to attempt some clearer understanding of her. It was her children, grandchildren, nieces and nephews, who were among the early settlers in Virginia. She is so little known, yet later generations of Blands owe her so much. It is irresistible, therefore, to force from the dry

and dreary pages of wills and registers some intuitive knowledge of who and what she was, to formulate a story about her.

Obviously, she was a woman of remarkable physical and emotional stamina. She was a Juliet without her Romeo. Lay aside any notion that Elizabethan women married any earlier than today. They did not. Yet Susan was the exception. She married the last born child of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. John Bland was about thirty-four when he married Susan, more than twice her age. No fair Romeo was he. More likely, he was a newly established merchant, thirsting for more. To Susan he must have seemed so old, wise and experienced. Was it a matter of love between them? Marriages in those days were founded on more businesslike principles than today, and were often arranged by parents. In such a culture, John was old enough to have a choice. He must have seen her and thought he would like to marry her. Did Susan have a choice? Would her parents have been moved by the pleas of a fifteen-year-old girl that she did not want to marry a man twice her age? Of these things we know nothing. What is known is that love must have grown between them. They were married for twenty-six years, and Susan was pregnant for about half that time. Her child-bearing years ended when she was forty-one. John Bland was probably not always a joy to live with; ask Gregory Bland or Lawrence Lownes. John's death must have seemed to Susan like an unlikely race against time, for even if he had lived, menopause would have soon released her from the never ending round of pregnancies that marked her life.

But then, perhaps this view of Susan's motherhood is too bleak. Childbirth in all ages has been the time of renewal and joy, and Elizabethans, much more than people in the 20th century can deeply understand, centered their lives around the family. It is charming to

contemplate John and Susan, more than most Elizabethan families, perpetually surrounded by children, who must have been everywhere, playing in the streets near their home, getting into the way of Susan and John and other adults who came to visit or live there, getting into mischief, offering no respite, short of Susan or John huffing angrily off to their private quarters (in case they had any), and slamming the door to get some peace and quiet. There must have been, particularly for Susan, incessant interruptions in the rythms of her life, so much so that it began to seem as if life had no harmony at all to her, but was just a jumble of day to day events. Her concentration, patience and energy must have been subjected to severe tests daily in order to break up children's fights, quieten their fears, rescue them from danger, bathing, cooking,[1] putting them to bed.

The rewards of all this sacrifice of time and sensibility must have been gratifying to Susan. But there was death too, and it came more frequently than in our time. Susan's children and grandchildren were so numerous that death must have been wrenching to her. To name one reason we cannot comprehend: some religious sects in those days consigned an unbaptized infant to eternal hell, a fact that caused unspeakable grief and heartbreak, even insanity, in many mothers. Except for her stillborn child in 1621, all Susan's children lived beyond the baptismal point,[2] yet children's death cannot be easy for

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1 Susan must have been a good nutritionist. John lived to age 59, Susan to 74. Twelve of their sixteen children survived to adulthood. Only the stillborn child did not live past infancy. All of this is a remarkable record for Tudor-Stuart England.

2 Additionally, English mothers of Susan Deblere's time and class often put their infants into the hands of a nursemaid for the first two years, thereby insulating themselves against the infant-mother bonding that is common today.

any parent to bear. My Aunt Hestine once recalled her mother's sentiments about two of her own children's death: no one should have to bury their children. Consider Susan Deblere.

All of the children born to Susan, from Mary in 1607 to 1620, nine in all, lived to adulthood. They were sustenance to Susan, whose child bearing years were followed by the burdens of widowhood and sorrows of multiple deaths, almost certainly the lot of any woman whose family was as large as Susan's, and who lived as long as Susan did. The stillborn child may have been a premonition. In 1625, her two year old child, Hester, died, and then in 1629, she lost her mother.

Several years passed and beginning in 1632, Susan began to feel the full weight of sorrows. These she faced, in a lonely way any woman must understand: without her mother, and without her husband's knowledge, strength and experience. John's death in 1632 ushered in the era for her. He was buried on the same day and poignantly, in the same coffin as their last child, Joan Amy. In August 1633, she buried her seven year old daughter, Rachel. Several months after Rachel's death, Susan petitioned King Charles I for his protection while she made sense of her husband's large estate and fended off "unsatisfied creditors" whom she says "threaten to prosecute me to the ruin of myself and thirteen children."[1] With some allowance for the legal nature of Susan's petition, which tended to dramatize her misfortune, one can begin to understand the dimensions of her inner strength as

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[1] CSPD, Vol. 6, Charles I (1633-1634), p. 44. At the time, Thomas was the only adult male member of the family. Susan's petition offers some insight into the wealth of John Bland: she claimed to have already paid 15,000 pounds to creditors. Today's purchasing power for that amount would be about $1.5 million.

she tried to make sense of her husband's complicated business affairs (even with legal help) while at the same time struggling with almost constant grief and attempting to hold together her huge family.

Two other events must have saddened her in the 1630's. Her six year old son Arnold, died in 1634, and at about the same time, she must have felt a sense of anger, frustration and bitterness when her son Edward decided to marry his cousin Jane, daughter of none other than Gregory Bland, John's older brother, whom John despised to the extent of banishing him and reading him out of his will. Then there was Virginia.

As we shall see in the next chapter, John and Edward, as well as the younger brothers Adam and Richard, had begun their travels to Virginia in the late 1630's and early 1640's. Since her husband was closely involved with the Virginia Company, Susan must have been world wise enough to see through the puffery that the Virginia Company circulated through the streets of London about Virginia. Surely, her husband had shared his knowledge of the place with her, and she knew Virginia for the swampy, death-ridden, disease-infested pesthole it was in the early years of settlement. Her heart must have constricted every time she heard a son or daughter begin to talk about his next trip to Virginia. The bad news began coming in when her son Adam was killed at sea in 1647, followed by Edward who died in Virginia in 1652. In 1658, her son William died. Between 1643 and 1661, ten of her grandchildren died. She did not live long enough to see Virginia claim the life of her youngest son, Theodorick, or her grandson Giles.

Susan Deblere outlived her husband by thirty-three years. By the time she was buried on Shrovetide Day,[1] February 1, 1664/1665, at St. Antholin's Parish Church, near her mother, her husband and many of her children and grandchildren, the Bland name was already taking hold in Virginia. Her youth when she married the youngest of the third generation children placed her in a unique historical position. By her fecundity, the first generations of Blands in Virginia endured. They were her children and grandchildren. The issue of Susan Deblere's flesh in later generations furnished a bridge to Virginia and the name of Bland flourished in the new world. May she rest in peace.

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1 Slaughter, p. 152.

PART TWO

THE BLAND FAMILY OF THE JAMES RIVER IN VIRGINIA

CHAPTER IV

THE SONS OF JOHN BLAND, THE GROCER

1646: The Past is Prologue

The Bland family set down serious roots in the new world in 1646. By then, Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns had been dead for more than fifty years and all of their children also were dead. Their youngest child, John Bland, "the Grocer," (1572-1632) had been dead for fourteen years. His widow, Susan Deblere (1590-1664), thanks to her youth when she married John, still lived on Sythe Lane in St. Antholin's Parish, by then an old woman by contemporary standards.

Clearly, for this family the new world, which lay tantalizingly across the brow of Englishmen's consciousness, belonged to the fourth generation. Especially did it belong to the sons and daughters of John Bland, "the Grocer," and Susan Deblere.

These are the key characters in this unfolding story: John Bland and Susan Deblere's first child Mary (1607-?), who married Emmanuel Proby, had a son, George Proby, who was among the first of the Bland in to come to the new world. The second daughter Susan (1609-?) married Thomas Pierson, who was in Virginia by 1639. Susan later joined him and died in Stafford County, Virginia. Edward Bland (1613-1652) was the first major Bland figure to settle down in Virginia. He came in 1646 or 1647 with his wife, Jane (1605-1664), herself the daughter of John, the Grocer's, despised brother Gregory, and Edward and Jane's only child, Edward (1635-1690). This younger Edward married a cousin and by her had two children: John, who died without issue sometime prior to 1704, and Sarah. Neither perpetuated the family name.

TABLE VII

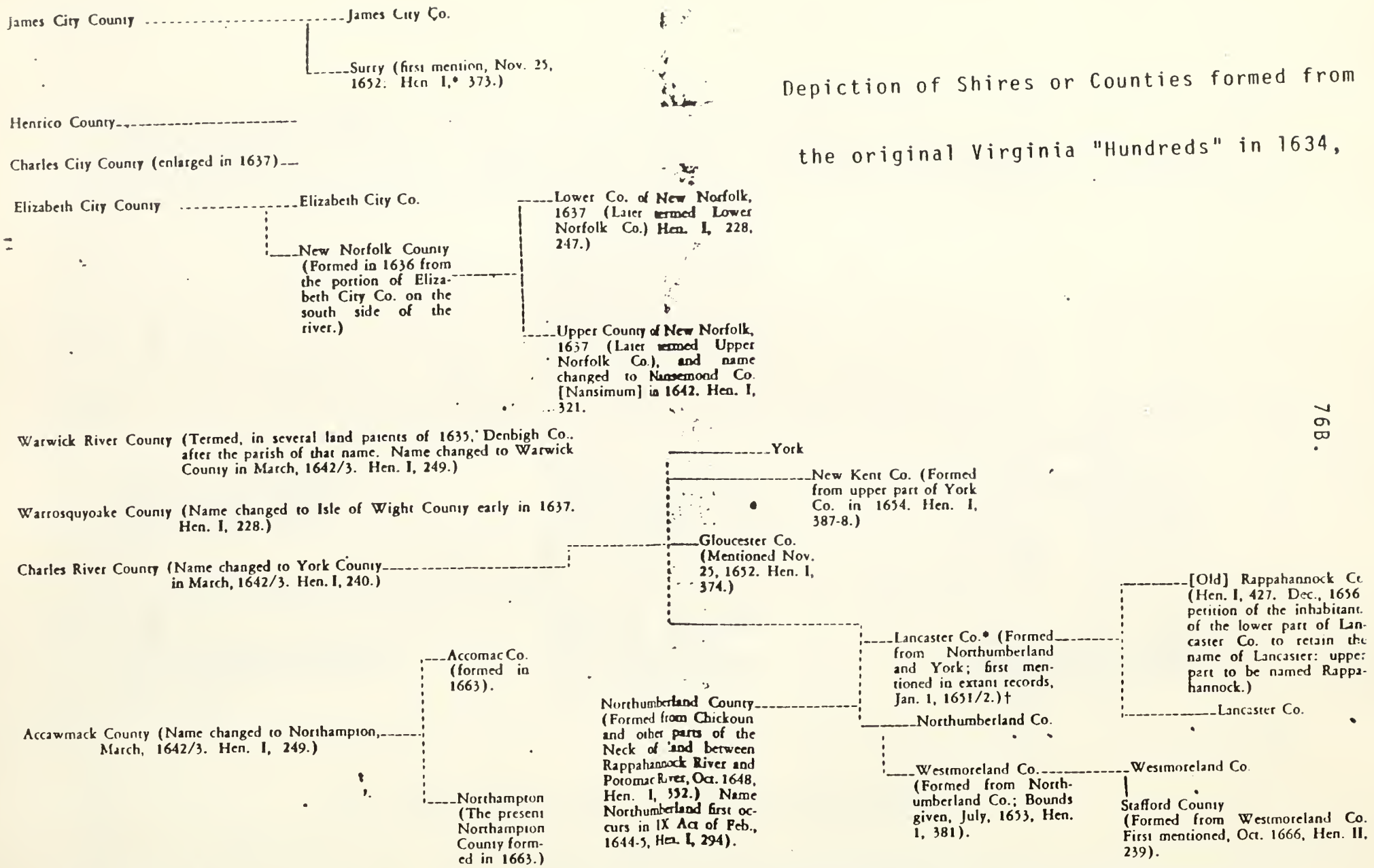
THE BLAND FAMILY: SETTLERS IN VIRGINIA

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4)	(4)	(4)
John Bland (C. 1612-1680), married Sarah Greene (C. 1624-1712)	Edward Bland (1613-1652), married his cousin, Jane Bland (C. 1605-1664)	Theodorick Bland (1629-1671), married Anna Bennett (C. 1639-1687)
(5)	**(5)**	**(5)**
Giles Bland (1647-1677), hanged in Bacon's Rebellion. Married Frances Povey.	Edward Bland (C. 1635-1690), married Margaret Gilby, his cousin.	Theodorick (1663-1700) Richard (1665-1720) John (1668-1746)
	(6)	
	John Bland (- C. 1704), died unmarried. Sarah (?), married (a) Edward New; and (b) Alexander Horton.	

(Other children of John Bland and Susan Deblere: Mary (1607-?) had a son, George Proby, and a grandson, Peter Proby, who traveled to Virginia. Susannah (1609-?) moved to Stafford County, Virginia, and died there. Elizabeth (1620-?) traveled to Virginia in 1647 and 1673. Adam (1616-C. 1647), William (1622-C. 1658), and Richard (1624-1692) worked in Virginia as family agents during the 1640's.)

Depiction of Shires or Counties formed from the original Virginia "Hundreds" in 1634,



*Hening's Statutes at Large.

For a complete study, with charts, of the formation of Counties in Virginia see "Bulletin of the Virginia State Library." Vol. 9, Nos. 1, 2 and 3. Virginia Counties: Those Resulting from Virginia Legislation. By Morgan Poitiaux Robinson, Archivist. Richmond 1916.

*In Patent Book III, p. 128 is found a grant to Isaac Richardson, land in Lancaster Co. alias Gloucester, Oct. 10, 1652.

†See article by Floyd W. Sydnor. *Virginia Magazine of History and Biography*, Vol. XLII. p. 28

Source: Martha Woodruff Hiden and Annie Lash Jester, Adventurers in Purse and Person (1956).

Before Edward came to Virginia, his younger brothers, Adam, William, and possibly Richard, for a time, acted as family agents in Virginia. Traces of them are found in Virginia records during the first half of the 1640's. But they were loners. Neither Adam nor William were married, and Richard was in Virginia well before the time of his marriage. It was Edward (1613-1652), who came with the intention of remaining. His mission, however, was cut short by his death, so it was Theodorick (1629-1671), the youngest son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, taking up where his brother Edward left off in Virginia, about 1652, who finally laid down roots in the colony.

But the family's settlement in Virginia is due to none of these actors quite so much as to the persistence of John Bland and Susan Deblere's second son, John (fourth generation, 1612-1680). If this chapter were fictional, John would be the character from whose point of view the story was controlled and told. He was the family's overwhelming presence in the last three-quarters of the 17th century. An understanding of John's larger commercial motives form the theme of this chapter, and bring clarity and coherence out of a cascade of conflicting interests and motives. John never lived in Virginia, yet those who did, Edward and Theodorick and their families, were only puppets on his string, at least until he died, moving to his direction, reacting to his will. This John Bland, the merchant, his indomitable wife, Sarah Greene (1624-1712), and their son, Giles (1647-1677), are at the center of this story.[1]

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[1] To an extent, John Bland enjoys center stage in the story because of the nature of historical evidence, which makes necessary a special tribute to Neville Williams, who, as he says, rescued John's "career from oblivion" in his "The Tribulations of John Bland, Merchant: Seville, London, Jamestown, Tangier, 1643-1680," VHHB, 72 (1964), pp. 19-41, esp. 20. Though Williams was not writing from a genealogical perspective, and was not sensitive to family relations, he did succeed in giving shape to John's public career. My discussion of John Bland relies heavily upon Mr. Williams' article.

It is clear that John Bland was a successful, well educated and cosmopolitan businessman in his time. Like most of the merchant class, he was ambitious and unbending in his desire to marry up, which he certainly did. He married Sarah Greene, the daughter of a parliamentarian from Dorset County. John sought to increase his landed estate and probably, like most London merchants of his time, he wanted his children or perhaps his grandchildren, to rise above his own status as a tradesman, to that of a leisurely life as landed, wealthy gentry. In this last, John was a tragic failure. In spite of what was an obviously successful life, he was at times insensitive, heavy handed, a grasping, often small-minded man, his eye riveted on the main chance, too much so for his own good or for that of his family. It was this unswerving hunger for acquisition and aggrandizement, in addition to his singular political ineptitude that kept his life in turmoil and ultimately brought his family to ruin.

Apparently, John was himself a transitional figure in the merchant's ideal of the gentleman's life of unbought leisure. For whereas Adam Bland, his grandfather, had come up in the world through the ranks of the Skinner's guild, and his father John had bought himself into the Grocer's guild through redemption, John apparently felt no need to affiliate with any guild. He was simply a well-to-do merchant, having inherited his father's business.

John Bland: Merchant in Spain and London, 1643-1664

By the middle of the 1640's, England was embroiled in a civil war that would lead to the execution of the king and a ten-year reign by the Puritan Cromwell. John Bland had just married Sarah Greene, and was becoming quite prominent in commerce between London, Spain, and

to an extent, Virginia. But early in 1643, he made a serious mistake. He had been flouting an edict of King Charles I, whose Ambassador to Spain forbade trade between Spain and London. John Bland continued in the trade, "whereby he ran many hazards of both his person and estate."[1] Fearing that his property might be sequestered, John decided to send all of his goods in Spain to his business partner in London, Andrew King. John, who had been living in Spain, left for London, leaving his brothers, William in Spain, Edward in the Canaries, and Adam Bland acting as his agent in Virginia.[2]

John valued his Spanish property at 10,000 pounds, and his transfer to England was commercially an astute move. Politically, it was a disaster, for John had seriously underestimated the volatile atmosphere in the mother country. His erstwhile partner, Andrew King, fearing for his life, had fled the city along with the party of King Charles, leaving behind, unclaimed and unprotected, all of John's property. This included not only John's Spanish possessions, but those goods that had been shipped by his brothers in the Canaries and Virginia, and were still aboard ship in London, Parliament, in its fury against King, as a sympathiser to the crown, confiscated all of John Bland's property in his name.

John's enraged response was indicative of his political naivete. He loudly demanded return of what he claimed to be a total of 14,000 pounds of property, pointedly reminding parliamentary authorities that he had loaned them 2,500 pounds which they had used to raise the army that had seized his property.[3]

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1 Williams, p. 21.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

By the time he returned to London from Spain, the deed had been done: Parliament had sold John's property "for the benefit of the state."[1] John could do nothing but swallow hard and start litigation. He spent the next ten years in pursuit of this lost property, tracking it through an entanglement of government boards before he got a fractional restitution. Litigation dragged on into Cromwell's protectorate (1649-1660). John was granted restitution amounting to 2,718 pounds, but he had actually recovered no more than one-tenth before the entire state was thrown into pandemonium by the beheading of Charles I. Exasperated, John almost gave up.[2] His case had been immeasurably complicated by Parliament's assessment of a 6,000 pound fine against him and his brother, Thomas, in 1648. Parliament alleged that the two brothers had abused their public trust in the Joint Receivership of the King's Rents from Yorkshire County, and demanded repayment. Any litigation John pursued was thus complicated by this claim, which was not laid aside for a year or so.[3] Eventually, the Parliamentary Committee for Public Debts ruled a 4,983 pound restitution in John's estate, but this too dissipated to frustration in the changing political fortunes of the country.[4]

John did not finally regain a part of his losses until the end of 1653, when he piggy-backed his claim onto the settlement of the estate of his brother-in-law, Emmanuel Proby, whom he owed "a very considerable

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Carlisle, p. 143.

4 Williams, p. 22.

sum of money." By joining forces with Proby's executor, John got restitution of 2,480 pounds, most of which he had to pay into Proby's estate.[1]

Until about 1664, John remained in London, cultivating his contacts and rebuilding his business. Primarily, he resumed his trade and commerce in Spain, and got involved with the government in provisioning the British fleet. It was this enterprise that, when hostilities broke out between Spain and England, led to the capture and death of his kinsman, George Bland (1630-1658). George's death was a grim residue of John's constant struggle for wealth. Before George, two of John's brothers, Adam and Edward, had perished in another point of John's triangular commerce, a distant and half-civilized little corner of hell called Virginia.

Virginia and the Bland Family: 1616-1646

By the time the Bland family settled in Virginia, the new colony had survived for forty years. Historians of Virginia know that these first years were hard and bitter ones for the men and women who lived there. During the first eighteen years of the colony's existence, it was controlled (governed is not the word) by a private enterprise venture known as the Virginia Company of London. As its name implies, it was based not in Virginia but in London, and its policies were formulated outside its primary base of operations, Also, although it

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[1] Ibid. This was of course a family matter, and perhaps less than a fair exchange for John. His sister Mary, Proby's wife, stayed at John's house with her younger children until she remarried. Whether John, with his eye ever on a monetary chance, charged her room and board, is unknown.

had about it some of the aspects of a civil government, it was not created to govern, to provide security, stability and well being for its citizens. It never did. Following a debilitating Indian massacre, the company was closed down in 1624 by the King of England. The story of mismanagement by the successive leaders and entrepreneurs who came to Virginia is succinctly summarized by one disillusioned investor in the Virginia Company, who at the time of the Indian massacre, did some demographic calculations: between 1619-1622, 3570 persons had been sent to the colony. This figure, added to the 700 inhabitants in Virginia in 1619, produced a total of 4270 persons, yet only 1240 were alive in 1624 after the massacre. The Indians had killed 350, leaving a balance of some 2700 persons who had died because of structural and environmental conditions in Virginia.[1]

To give these early founders their due, their failures are offset by the simple fact that they did establish a colonial nucleus which survived the hideous environmental obstacles and the leadership's towering stupidity and greed. History redeems them for this, and perhaps also because there was no adequate colonial precedent from which to draw methodological lessons or emulate in practice.

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[1] Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom (1975), p. 101. One critical reason for such a horrifying mortality was that the Sandys administration, of which John Bland, the Grocer, was a part, did not profit from the experiences of earlier leaders who dispersed the population away from Jamestown during the summer months, thus avoiding the worst effects of epidemics spread by contaminated seawater. The Sandys people never caught on to the connection between environment and mortality: Carville V. Earle, "Disease, Environment and Mortality in Early Virginia," in Thad Tate, Ed., The Chesapeake in the Seventeenth Century (1979), pp. 96-125.

Virginia, in those early days, was not a place where one wished to bring a wife or family. Basically, it had all the attributes of a boom town, uninhabitable, uncivilized. It was not until the three decades preceding Bacon's Rebellion in 1675-1676, that a pattern of settling down, choosing to live there, and to enrich the community with permanent homes, schools and churches, began to take hold. In 1959, Bernard Bailyn wrote an elegant and concise theoretical paper on the nature of settlement and the arrival of political and social stability in Virginia. Bailyn argued that not until the 1640's when the first traces of family names such as Byrd, Bland, Carter, Burwell, Ludwell and Mason began to appear, did Virginia settle down. Typically, these names were represented in Virginia by younger sons of substantial and well-connected London families, some of them Royalists who were fleeing the perils of life in England under the Puritan protectorate.[1] The integration of the Bland family into Virginia may be considered a veritable model of the Bailyn thesis. To illustrate the point, it may be useful to discuss the connection of the elder John Bland, the Grocer, with the colony.

As Bailyn says, John Bland never "touched foot" in Virginia.[2] The first mention of John Bland's connection with the Virginia Company indicates that initially he was not heavily invested. In 1618, he purchased four shares of stock which entitled him to 400 acres of land in Virginia, not a very large investment as land proprietorships

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1 Bernard Bailyn, "Politics and Social Structure in Virginia," in J. K. Martin, Ed., Interpreting Colonial America (1975), pp. 186-203, esp. 192-193. The Bailyn thesis is enlarged by Edmund Morgan in his American Slavery, American Freedom (1975), the best recent treatment of the Virginia story in my opinion.

2 Ibid.

went in those days. John's business connections with the Virginia Company are not exactly certain. Possibly he got involved in the Company to enhance his more important trade activities, just as he had joined the Grocer's guild for the same reason.

John got involved with the Virginia Company during the Sandys' administration period (1616-1624). John's vantage point was from London. He served on a number of committees which did, to their credit, attempt to invest some internal order in Virginia, such as an attempt to discourage excessive planting of tobacco and at the same time to encourage the planting of staple food crops which would provide homegrown nourishment for the settlers. At the same time, he participated in notions which were at best naive, and at worst, simple recruitment gimmicks to lure the unsuspecting poor into Virginia. One such idea was the establishment of an ironworks in the colony. John, from his London perspective, profited substantially from his connections. He was part owner in a consortium which owned merchant ships, "The Abigaill," "The London Merchant," and "The Ionathan." These merchants evidently had an edge on the competition for shipping goods to Virginia. Additionally, John was associated with a group which in 1622 established "Martin's Hundred,"[1] one of the "particular

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[1] John Bland's activities with the Virginia Company are discussed in Susan Myra Kingsbury, Ed., The Records of the Virginia Company of London, 4 Volumes (1906-1934); hereafter referred to in notes as Kingsbury. Vol. I, pp. 275-276, 386, 391-392, 410, 413, 467; Vol. II, p. 420; Vol. III, pp. 59, 66, 81, 592-593, 466.

plantations" which, after 1634, became the formative counties in the colonies.[1] Those who established the hundreds advanced the proposition that they would set aside a certain part of the land for municipal purposes, and that every person who settled for three years at least would get a fifty acre plot. Of course, the catch was that very few people stayed in Virginia for three years. Those who tried usually died in the disease-ridden environment, thus there was little need for schools, churches and the like. On the other hand, for the investors in "Hundreds," the reward was 20,000 acres with promise of an additional 20,000 acres when the "hundred" was populated. As an investor, John Bland profited handsomely.

All of this happened, indeed the Virginia Company folded, when all of John Bland and Susan Deblere's sons were only children. There is an evidentiary hiatus in Bland family activities until 1635, by which time John, the Grocer, was dead and the Bland commercial affairs had been taken over by his son John.

The younger John Bland (1612-1680) came to Virginia twice in 1635.[2] These trips were followed in 1636 and 1638 by Edward Bland (1613-1652) who traveled to Virginia as another man's headright.[3] Again in 1637, a ship called the "Tristam and Jane" arrived in Virginia carrying goods consigned to John Bland.[4] Another entry in Virginia records shows

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1 Martha Woodruff Hiden and Annie Lash Jester, Adventurers in Purse and Person (1956). Hereafter, this source will be noted as Hiden and Jester.

2 New England Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. II, p. 212, and Vol. IV, p. 261.

3 Nugent, Vol. I, pp. 42, 91.

4 Martha Hiden, "Accompts of the Tristam and Jane," VMHB, LXII (1954), p. 432.

that William Bland (1622-1658), went to Virginia in 1640 under an indenture. By 1643, Adam Bland (1616-1647) was acting as the family's agent in Virginia.[1]

All of this makes it fairly clear that the Bland family had been interested in Virginia for about thirty years before Edward Bland (1613-1652), who had been in Spain and the Canaries, was sent to Virginia by John Bland.

Edward Bland: 1646-1652

Edward's name first appears on Virginia records as a London merchant on July 7, 1646, when note was made of his purchase of 2,000 acres of land near the Lawnes and Upper Chippoakes Creeks, in Charles City and Surry Counties, near Jamestown. Subsequent entries refer to Edward simply as a merchant, suggesting that he may have begun to style himself differently soon after arrival, one positive indication that he identified with Virginia and intended to settle down. Certainly the second entry, March 10, 1647, in which he is given 1,300 acres for transporting twenty-six persons to the colony, indicates that he came to the colony prepared to stay, for the list of headrights includes, in addition to himself, his wife Jane (1605-1664), his son Edward (1635-1690), his sister Elizabeth and her future husband, William Beard, and his nephew, George Proby.[2]

These two transactions gained Edward Bland some 3,300 acres, contiguously located in the Jamestown area. On December 23, 1649, he added an additional 3,000 acres at Upper Chippoakes. The evidence

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1 VMHB, Vol. 40, p. 141; Thoresby, p. 208.

2 Nugent, Vol. I, pp. 160, 171.

also seems to indicate that at about the same time, Edward purchased an 8,000 acre tract of land called Kymages, which had originally been part of the Berkeley Hundred in Westover Parish, Charles City or Surry County.[1] Thus, within a short time of his arrival, Edward appears to have amassed a property holding of about 14,700 acres.[2]

Theodorick would later add to this land by purchasing tracts called Westover and Jordans, as well as several smaller tracts.

By 1678, John Bland could itemize the following real property holdings in Virginia:

> The several plantations of Bartletts, Kimecheys, Herring Creeke, Jordanes, Westover, Upper Chippoakes, Sunken Marsh Plantation, Basses Choice, Jamestowne Lott, Lawnes Creeke and all other lands etc.[3]

The above would indicate that the major land acquisitions were accomplished by Edward Bland, and that by the time of Theodorick's death in 1671, the Bland family had title to in excess of 16,700 acres (Westover was 2,000 acres), making the Bland family certainly among the largest of mid-17th Century Virginia landholders.[4]

Obviously, such large land acquisitions exceeded subsistence and dwelling needs. They were shrewd investments, for real property could be transferred, upon the owner's death, to children or relatives. Also,

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1 Bailyn, p. 193; Hening, Vol. VI, pp. 303-308. Edmund Jennings Lee, Lee of Virginia, 1642-1800 (1895), p. 137; hereafter in notes, referred to as Lee. VMHB, Vol. III (1895), pp. 124-125; VMHB, Vol. XLIV (1956), pp. 464-465.

2 In addition to the above, John had purchased "Basses Choice," a 400 acre tract, in 1643. WMQ (1), Vol. VII, pp. 214-215.

3 WMG (2), Vol. 4 (1899), pp. 202-203.

4 Wilcombe Washburne, Bacon's Rebellion, Unpublished Ph.D. Diss. (Harvard University: 1955), pp. 649-714. This is the key chapter in Washburne's work, and much of it contrasts the real property holdings of participants on both sides of the rebellion. Washburne's analysis sets the Bland family's land holdings in perspective.

the property had an inestimable intrinsic value in timber, furs, and resale as settlements multiplied. But these lands were far off and the least amount of tinkering with values, entitlement, or settlement, was bound to create a crisis. The sort of loose, family confederation that evidently applied in these Bland possessions seemed to guarantee an eventual conflict. Although John Bland evidently provided the money for the purchases from family funds, the basis of his frequent boast that he had invested "more than 10,000 pounds in Virginia," entitlement seemed to rest in the hands of Edward, and after him, Theodorick. This was not a bad arrangement, but as will later be seen, when these brothers died, there arose a crisis of ownership which ultimately caused tragedy in the family. The widows of Edward and Theodorick and their heirs rightfully claimed ownership of the Virginia lands. In both cases, Edward and Theodorick had minor sons upon their death, and their widows exercised a dower right to the lands as long as they lived. It is probably true that John Bland used family money to buy the lands, passing the money to Edward and Theodorick, but if the widows persisted in challenging John's claim to the land, as Theodorick's widow Anna Bennett did, John was left no recourse but to seek restitution through lawsuits.[1]

Following this acquisition of property, Edward recedes from the records. His name appears in Maryland archives in 1647 as a result of his lawsuit to recover a boat that was stolen from his wharf.[2] Edward is most noted, however, for his exploratory travels. On

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1 Letter, Leslie Dawson to Charles L. Bland, June 1, 1981.

2 Maryland Archives, noted in Miscellaneous Material Collected by Mr. Leslie Dawson.

August 27, 1650, Edward struck out with three other gentlemen, two indentured servants and an Indian guide. They left Fort Henry (see map IV, page 114A) and headed south across the Nottaway and Meherrin Rivers as they exist in present day Virginia, and turned back after they reached the Roanoke River, North Carolina, just to the west of the Chowan River near Albemarle Sound, just east of present day Rocky Mount, North Carolina. After his return, Edward Bland wrote a short pamphlet entitled The Discovery of New Brittaine, which described the terrain, flora and fauna, and native inhabitants of this previously unexplored land. Convinced that the area would yield a rich and profitable harvest of tobacco and sugar, Edward petitioned the Virginia Assembly for the right to gather up one hundred able men to settle the territory. The Assembly granted the request, and Edward got the pamphlet published in London in 1651. It was designed to recruit interested settlers for Edward's project, and it has become a minor classic in colonial American history as an example of the way the Virginia gentry attempted to profit and build upon their explorations. Bland's preface to the pamphlet summarizes the mixture of ideal with profit motive that inspired early Virginia merchants.

> Whoever thou art that defireft the Advancement of God's glory by converfion of the Indians, the Augmentation of the English Commonwealth, in extending its liberties; I would advife thee to confider the prefent benefit and future profits that will arife in the well fetling Virginia's confines, especially that happy country of New Brittaine.[1]

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[1] Edward Bland, The Discovery of New Brittaine (1651), reprinted by the March of America Fascimile Series, No. 24 (1966); longstanding differences about Edward Bland's route are unraveled in Alan V. Briceland's "The Search for Edward Bland's New Britain," VMHB, Vol. 87, (April 1979), pp. 131-157.

The project was abrogated by Edward's death on May 9, 1652, and there is no evidence that Theodorick, upon his arrival the following year, did anything to follow through on the project.

Following Edward Bland's death, his widow Jane Bland stayed on in Virginia. Title to Edward's property passed to her, at least temporarily.[1] Soon she remarried to John Holmwood, a lawyer who had been a counsel to Edward Bland. By then, Jane was probably about forty-seven years old and past childbearing years; there is no record of her bearing any children by Holmwood. Several sources show Jane's sister Frances coming to Virginia to be with her, at "near fifty years of age."[2] Frances herself got married to one John Coggan, a chiurgeon, or doctor from Charles City County, and it is not unreasonable to assume that the two couples, with Edward's son, lived under the roof of the house that Holmwood had constructed soon after Edward Bland's death.[3]

Back in London, John Bland could not have been entirely pleased with these developments. First, although the enormous amount of real property that had been bought up by Edward passed from him to his wife Jane, in John's reasoning John Holmwood, thousands of miles from London, could probably figure out a way to get to the property[4] if he had a mind to.

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1 Nugent, Vol. I, pp. 277, 279.

2 Thoresby, p. 585. Beverly Fleet, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 22, p. 12.

3 Elizabeth Davis, Ed., Surry County Records, Book I, 1652-1684. (1957), p. 4.

4 Nugent, Vol. I, pp. 277, 279. Holmwood did in fact become a joint administrator with Theodorick Bland, indicating that by the time Theodorick arrived (1653), Holmwood must have obtained some leverage with the property, and in spite of John's worries, was probably an honest man.

Then there is the fact that both Jane Bland and her sister Frances were the daughters of Gregory Bland, who had been driven out of the family by his younger brother John, the Grocer. Edward's marriage to Jane almost certainly resurrected family tensions on this subject. John must have viewed with dismay a development whereby the children of his father's confessed enemy ("Lownes played the knave with me and Gregory Bland likewise deceived me") were in the bosom of some of his most lucrative investments.

John Bland evidently thought it natural to replace Edward with yet another brother. This time it was Theodorick Bland (1629-1671), the youngest son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, who at the time was managing family affairs in Sanlucar, Spain. Theodorick came to Virginia about January 1653/1654.[1]

Theodorick Bland: 1652-1671

Key documentary sources such as Miss Fleet's abstracts, William Hening's Statutes at Large, and H. R. McIlwayne's Minutes of the Council and General Court of Colonial Virginia, as well as other basic sources are replete with notices about Theodorick, who lived in Virginia from 1653 until 1671 when he died, during which time he married and started a family, and served in various government posts, as well as adding to the Bland family's fortunes. Alexander Brown says of him that he was "both in fortune and understanding inferior to no person in his time in the country."[2]

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1 Davis, Surry County Records, p. 11.

2 Brown, Genesis, p. 830.

Theodorick served as Speaker of the House of Burgesses from 1659-1661, and as Justice of Charles City County in 1664-1665. He was a member of the Council of Virginia in 1665-1666.[1] As a merchant, he added considerable property to the already formidable holdings of his brother Edward. In 1657, an unspecified amount of acreage called Jordans,[2] (formerly known as "Bugger's Bush")[3] was signed over to Theodorick. In 1666, Theodorick purchased a 2,000 acre estate called "Westover" where he lived until his death. Westover had been in 1619 part of the estate of Henry, Lord De La Warr, and in 1636 had been purchased by Captain Thomas Pawlett, who when he died in 1643, passed it on to a brother, who sold the property to Theodorick for 175 pounds.[4] It appears from entries in McIlwayne that Theodorick, in addition to having clear title to his own specific land acquisitions, joined with John Holmwood in amicable joint custody of the estate of Edward Bland, at least after Jane died in 1664.[5]

Theodorick married Anna Bennett (1639-1687) in 1660.[6] She made a handsome upward connection for Theodorick for she was the daughter of Richard Bennett, who had served variously in Virginia since 1629,

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1 Brown, Genesis, p. 830.

2 Davis, Surry County Records, p. 30.

3 VMHB, Vol. 2 (1893), p. 419.

4 Bailyn, p. 193; Waters, Gleanings, Vol. 1, p. 425. Westover was ultimately sold to the Byrd family by Theodorick's sons in 1688, for 800L. sterling and 10,000 pounds of tobacco. It became the estate of William Byrd.

5 H. R. McIlwayne, Minutes of the Council and General Court, 2nd Ed. (1979), p. 358; hereafter referred to in notes as McIlwayne.

6 McIlwayne, p. 503.

including a four-year stint as governor (1652-1655), when he was appointed by the Puritan regime in England to bring Loyalists in the colony under control. Part of the marriage dowry was Richard Bennett's house in James City County.[1] As indicated in the first chapter, Theodorick and Anna were parents of three sons (fifth generation): Theodorick (1663-1700); Richard (1665-1720); and John (1668-1746). The next chapter will be devoted to the descendants of these three brothers through the end of the 19th century.

Theodorick seems to have been a generous man, who was fairly interested in the welfare of the colony, making him part of the distinctive new breed of settler celebrated by Bailyn. According to one source, he donated ten acres for a church in Charles City County, and was prime builder of a county court house and parish prison.[2]

Theodorick died on April 23, 1671, and on his tombstone was inscribed the following in Latin:

Cujus Vidua Moetissima Anna, Filia Richard Bennett[3]

Anna Bennett Bland remarried about 1675 to Colonel St. Leger Codd,[4] a man who had business affairs both in Maryland and Virginia, and was a follower of the government of William Berkeley. Colonel Codd survived Anna, who is said to have died in November 1687 at Wharton Creek in Maryland.[5]

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1 VMHB, Vol. 8 (1900), p. 73.

2 Jester and Hiden, p. 98; and WMQ (1), Vol. IM (1898), p. 143.

3 VMHB, Vol. X (1902), pp. 373-374; Lee, pp. 137-140 ("His most disconsolate widow Anna, daughter of Richard Bennett").

4 Thoresby, p. 586.

5 VMHB, Vol. X (1902), pp. 373-375.

John Bland in London and Tangier: 1660-1676

By 1660 John Bland had recovered from his earlier business reverses and was doing quite well as a London merchant. During his marriage to Sarah Greene, two of his three children had died, but his second child Giles (1647-1677) was now about thirteen years old. It is obvious from extant records that the family lived at Hart Street, St. Olaves Parish, not far from the Thames River and the London Navy Yard.[1] John and Sarah lived in a very large house, which the government once leased for the lodging of government employees.[2] The house was also a home for various members of John's, and probably Sarah's, family. Parish registers show that at various times John's widowed mother, Susan Deblere, and his sisters, Mary Bland Proby and Susan Bland Pierson, and their children lived there. In addition, there were several families of boarders.

When the exiled King Charles II landed at Dover on May 26, 1660, the years of being politically an out ended for John Bland. His old associate, Andrew King, was among the delegation of merchants on hand at Dover to meet Old Charlie. King was soon appointed to a new position within the customs service,[3] and the record makes it abundantly clear that John Bland also was in the good graces of the various governmental bodies concerned with merchant activities in the reign of Charles II.

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1 St. Olaves Parish was by John Bland's time, about 600 years old, and had a rich tradition in London society. The parish church was one of the 22 of 109 standing churches which survived the great fire of 1666. The parish's history is discussed in Percival Hunt, Samuel Pepys in the Diary (1959), pp. 40-44.

2 CSPD, Charles II, Vol. 15 (1673), p. 77.

3 Williams, p. 25.

As a newly refurbished merchant, John became a writer of minor authority on commercial topics. In 1659, he had published Trade Revived, or a Way Proposed to Restore the Trade of This Our English Nation. Again in 1661, while Theodorick was experiencing the confidence of the Virginia Colonial Government, John wrote To the King's Most Excellent Majesty the Humble Remonstrance of John Bland, a treatise intended to acquaint the King's government with the disasterous effects of the Trade and Navigation Acts upon commerce in Virginia. He may also have been the author of a work written in 1662, A Short Discours of the Late Forren Acquests Which England Holds, viz. of Dunkirk... Tangier...Boombay...Jamayca...Ect...[1] Whatever his talents as a merchant, John was no Milton. One reviewer comments, "Bland spelled badly, even by Seventeenth Century standards."[2] Samuel Pepys, the famous diarist and business associate of John Bland, confirms this:

> December 1662: Read over half of Mr. Bland's discourse concerning trade which (he being no scholler and so knows not the rules of writing orderly), is very good.[3]

John Bland probably made the acquaintance of Pepys (1633-1703) some time before the Pepysian diaries were started. Like Bland, Pepys lived on Hart Street in St. Olaves Parish, and they seem to have attended the same church. Perhaps a chord of commonality was found in the Huguenot origins of Susan Deblere and Pepys' wife. At any rate, Pepys and Bland had many shared interests, especially between 1662-1665, when Pepys became instrumental in the affairs of the Crown's new

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1 Robert Latham and William Matthews, Ed., The Diary of Samuel Pepys, (Vol. III) 1662, pp. 157-158. Hereafter, the Diary will be referred to as Pepys, with the volume number indicated.

2 Pepys, Vol. III, p. 291, note 7.

3 Ibid.

colonial outpost in Tangiers. The record makes it clear that although Pepys was not a close personal friend, and did not always approve of the way Bland went about things, he nevertheless admired his accomplishments and commercial talents. Entries in Pepys' diaries (1660-1669) open windows to some appealing and interesting glimpses into the lives of John Bland and his family:

> August 6, 1662: Mr. Bland, the Merchant to me, who hath lived long in Spayne, and is concerned in the business of Tangier, who did discourse with me largely of it; and after he was gone, did send me three or four printed things that he hath writ of trade in general, and of Tangier particularly. But I do not find much in them.[1]

On September 5, 1662, Pepys was invited to John Bland's house, where he found "all the officers of the Customes; very fine, grave gentlemen, and I am very glad to know them."[2] What follows was a long bout of cards and vicious gossip,[3] which is however not germane to this study.

On November 11, 1662, Bland was back at Pepys' house:

> Telling me very fine things in Merchandize; which but that the trouble of my house doth so cruelly hinder me, I would take some pains in.[4]

On December 31, 1662, Pepys goes to Mr. Bland's:

> Where we stayed discoursing upon the reason for delay in the going away of those things a great while. Then...eat a dish of Anchoves and drink wine and syder and very merry...[5]

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1 Pepys, Vol. III, pp. 157-158.

2 Ibid., pp. 188-189. The customs service was established in 1671, replacing a farm system of collectors.

3 Ibid.

4 Pepys, Vol. III, p. 255. The trouble in Pepys' house was with his wife.

5 Pepys, Vol. IV, p. 10.

> January 9, 1662/1663: Mr. Bland came in the evening to me hither, and sat talking to me about many things of Merchandize, and I should be very happy in his discourse, durst I confess my ignorance to him, which is not so fit for me to do.[1]

Another gossipy discussion of government, officials, especially royalty, transpired between John Bland and Pepys on February 13, 1662/1663..

> Mr. Bland setting with me, talking of my Lord Windsor's being come home from Jamaica unlooked for; which makes us think these young lords are not fit to do any service abroad.[2]

On June 25, 1663, John Bland visited Pepys for some business and there discussed the battle of Ameixial fought between May 29-June 8, 1663 in which the English routed the Spaniards.[3]

The following long and colorful entry describes a visit to the Bland home by Pepys on July 24, 1663:

> ...so home and being sent for presently to Mr. Bland's house, where Mr. Povey,* Gauden and I were invited to dinner--which we had very finely, and great plenty but for drink, though many and good. I drunk nothing but small beer and water, which I drunk so much that I wish it may not do me hurt.
>
> They have a kinswoman they call daughter in the house, a short, ugly red haired slut+ that plays upon the virginalls and sings but after such a country manner, I was weary of it but yet could not but commend it.[4]

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* Thomas Povey, future father-in-law to John's son, Giles.

\+ One wonders who this colorfully described girl is. John Bland and Sarah Greene had no daughters.

1 Pepys, Vol. IV, p. 10.

2 Ibid., p. 41.

3 Ibid., p. 198.

4 Pepys, Vol. IV, pp. 242-243.

Pepys goes on with great relish to recount how after dinner, a voice teacher arrives to give instruction to the girl he so colorfully described. "What a droll fellow it is, to make her hold open her mouth and telling this and that so drolly, would make a man burst out."[1] Afterward, the guests all repaired to Sarah's kitchen and "sat down to a collacion of cheesecakes, tarts, custards and such like, very handsome..."[2]

In 1662, the North African city of Tangier came into English possession as a result of a royal marriage, and the idea of expanding his success by turning the colony into a profitable trade base, began to capture the imagination of John Bland. Pepys first makes note of Bland's interest in the colony on August 6, 1662.[3] By October 1664, John and Giles had left London for Tangier and he was followed by his wife Sarah the following spring.[4]

For John Bland, as for most merchants, as well as Pepys, the primary interest in the colony was commercial. Bland made a prophecy to Pepys on April 13, 1665, that if the crown encouraged men of property to settle in Tangier, the colony would prosper within a few years "and be made a beautiful and delightful place."[5] Less than a month later, John writes:

> Nothing can be of greater service to the King than to make Tangier famous, which can be done by making it cheaper for ships to land and re-ship from thence than to go direct to Spain.[6]

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Pepys, Vol. III, pp. 157-158.

4 Pepys, Vol. V, pp. 270-271, and 287-288; and Vol. VI, pp. 43-45.

5 CSPD, Charles II, Vol. IV (1664-1665), pp. 307-308.

6 Ibid., p. 346.

During the next few years, John Bland hoped to consolidate his gains by being appointed English consul at Malaga, where he hoped to spend "all the vintage time," remaining in Tangier the rest of the year. Although he did not get the consulship, he did prosper in Tangier, from whence he sent Pepys "a very fine African matt." He became easily the most prosperous merchant in Tangier.[1] When Tangier was incorporated in June 1668, John Bland became its first mayor, where he remained until 1676, although his fortunes were not always good there.

The crown had incorporated Tangier in order to provide to the merchant class some leverage in the military government of the colony. Yet Tangier's chief use to the British government was as a strategically located garrison and naval station. Thus, there was incipient and continuing conflict in the colony between military and civilian leaders, throughout John Bland's stay there.[2]

In the summer of 1664, before he went to Tangier, John Bland had gone to Pepys' home and harangued him "till eleven at night" about the problems for commerce presented by the military dominance of Tangier. At length, Pepys grew weary of Bland and ran him out of the house.[3] But Bland's mind did not change, for on first returning to London from Tangier, he again called upon Pepys and:

> ...tells me, in short, how all things are out of order there and likely to be--and the place never likely to come to anything while the soldier governs all and doth not encourage trade.[4]

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1 Williams, p. 127; Cf. Pepys, Vol. VII, p. 167.

2 E. M. Q. Routh, Tangier, England's Lost Atlantic Outpost: 1668-1673 (1912), pp. 113-117. Hereafter referred to as Routh.

3 Pepys, Vol. V, p. 226.

4 Pepys, Vol. VII, p. 109.

The presenting cause of the merchants' resentment toward the military in Tangier was that it was an inert, non-income producing entity that entailed a heavy cost in taxes. In fact, friction probably resulted because the merchants' interests did not seem compatible with maintenance of order in the colony.[1] Soon after he became mayor, John Bland got into an unseemly political quarrel with Colonel Henry Norwood, Lieutenant Governor of the Colony. Colonel Norwood looked upon himself as the custodian of the colony's welfare, and toward his self-perceived ends, felt it necessary "to justle just a little upon the charter," which angered John Bland. The quarrel between Bland and Norwood came to a head over the merchants' unlicensed selling of wine (which probably involved John Bland very closely). Norwood asked Bland to see that the merchants put an end to the practice. Bland refused to recognize the legitimacy of Norwood's authority, and with his son Giles,[2] began spreading rumors to the effect that Norwood was not only pocketing his soldiers' salaries, but was also profiteering from various underhanded practices.[3]

Probably because these accusations caused Norwood to get close with him, Bland fled the colony in December 1666, retreating to London.[4] Pepys, hearing of the conflict, was angry and somewhat disillusioned that Bland had bungled the merchants' interests by allowing himself to get into this squabble.

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1 Routh, pp. 121-122.

2 This Colonel Norwood had served as Treasurer of Virginia in the 1650's and 1660's, and was related to Governor William Berkeley, of Virginia "by a near affinity in blood." Thus, it is probable that the reputation of John's son, Giles Bland, preceded him in Virginia. Cf. Bailyn, p. 194.

3 Routh, pp. 117, 122-123; Williams, p. 26.

4 Williams, p. 26.

Pepys felt that John Bland had gone out of his way to alienate the military. But most of all, he was aggravated by Bland's clumsy and disordered way of presenting his case.

> Never did I see so great an instance of the use of grammar and knowledge how to tell a man's tale as this day, Bland having spoiled his business by ill-telling it.[1]

By January 1668/1669, Bland had returned to London and met with Pepys, who continued to feel that Bland was "a foolish, light-headed man," but by then other information had come to Pepys' attention causing him to soften his opinion about Bland. Pepys had learned that Bland and others representing the corporation in Tangier had submitted some "really good" proposals to Norwood, whose answer to them had been:

> ...shitty, proud, carping, insolent and ironically, so profane in style that ever I saw in my life--so as I shall never think the place can do well while he is there.[2]

One of Norwood's men rejoiced when John Bland left Tangier, predicting that "provided Mr. John Bland comes not againe to disturb us,"[3] the colony would adjust and exist in tranquility. But Norwood's behavior seems to have offended the Tangier committee so much that it acted in traditional government committee fashion: it sent Bland back to the colony in 1670 to co-exist with Norwood.

Back to Tangier went John Bland, reconstructed but unregenerate. The military, he said:

> ...would have none to live here but those that will... leave them to rule at their wills; buy all, keep all, make slaves of all and get all, destroy all, that will not doe as they doe, and take all fish that comes to their nett.[4]

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1 Pepys, Vol. IX, pp. 392-393.

2 Ibid., pp. 430-431.

3 Routh, p. 153.

4 Ibid., p. 123.

Again, in 1675, John Bland wrote:

> Except his Majestie resolve to make the civill power so eminent as no way be chequed by the military, Tangier will never produce worthy men to live there... Never place could come into a trading nation's hands fitter to be the Magazin of the known world than this, if so bee that honest men had encouragement, knaves punished and governors sent that would permit his majesties interest as well as there owne.[1]

So went the dispute between Bland and Norwood. It continued until John Bland's failing health and news that his interests in Virginia were going from bad to worse, forced him to return to London in 1676.

The Bland Family in Virginia: 1671-1674

When Theodorick Bland died in 1671, the family was left without a fourth generation male representative. It appears that the family's property was divided two ways. First, when Edward Bland (1613-1652) died, the major property passed to his wife Jane, or perhaps to a joint custodianship between Jane, John Holmwood, and Theodorick, after he came on the scene.

Edward's son, Edward (1635-1690) gained control of at least Kymages, probably when his mother died in 1664.[2] Jordans and Westover appear to have reverted to Anna Bennett upon the death of Theodorick Bland. John Bland must have been disconcerted to have chunks of real estate as large as Kymages, Westover and Jordans, paid for by his business, fall into the hands of a grandson of Gregory Bland (Edward), even if Edward was also a grandson of John, the Grocer. The entire in-law issue

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1 Routh, p. 148.

2 This assumption is implicit in Hening, Vol. VI, p. 303.

had to be unsettling for John. Virginia records seem to suggest that John Holmwood survived his wife, Jane Bland, and also his brother-in-law, Theodorick. There is nothing in the record to suggest that Holmwood was ever exploitative, or took advantage of the Bland family. But then Frances Bland, another of Gregory's daughters, had been living with her sister since about 1653, and the man she married was another matter. Frances' husband, John Coggan, was a doctor, or as they were called in Virginia, a "chiurgeon." It is not certain whether he was a quack or a true physician. Clearly, however, he was an alcoholic, a cheat and a scoundrel, as well as being a gutsy and irrascible brawler. Fleet's record of lawsuits against him seems to indicate that like the other chiurgeons, lawyers and politicians in Virginia, he had his eye on the main chance.[1]

Virginia, rife as it was with sickness and disease, was a land of golden opportunity for doctors. As Edmund Morgan wryly notes, sick men could not bargain well, and dead men not at all.[2] Seventeenth century Virginia doctors charged outrageously high fees for services, and since their ministrations usually hastened their patient's death, collected their ill-gotten fees from the deceased's estates. These chiurgeons were often able to insinuate themselves into the estate settlement of the deceased by these unsatisfied doctor bills, or more adroitly, by marrying the widow and grabbing the whole pile. In the specific case at hand, Fleet records several instances where families of former clients

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1 Beverly Fleet, Virginia Colonial Abstracts, Vol. 10-13 (1961), passim. Hereafter referred to in notes as Fleet.

2 Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom, pp. 163-164.

sued Coggan. One client, who was so angry that he broke Coggan's cheek-bone in a dispute over medical services, was ordered to pay Coggan 5,350 pounds of tobacco.[1] In 1665, the court heard evidence of a dispute between Coggan and one Wilkins, another client. Coggan had gone to the house of a neighbor and had met Wilkins there, "betwixt whom passed several words of ill and abusive language," whereupon the two "fell to collering." Wilkins flung Coggan to the ground, blacked his eye and cut his lip, falling upon the doctor, boxing his ears. A dog became excited and joined the fray, biting and lacerating Wilkins' leg, whereupon the two men ceased their hostilities for a spell, and Coggan in a moment of perverse compassion, treated Wilkins' wound. Having treated Wilkins, Coggan then grabbed an axe and threatened to cut off his leg and "knock out his brains."[2] In 1673, there is another such instance:

> John Black for laying hands on John Coggan (in the court and Coggan appearing bloody in the nose). Also, John Coggan for the assault made by him on John Black by pulling him by the hayre of the head in the court and other rudeness in the face of the court.[3]

One can easily imagine John's reaction to all of this: "Damn Frances Bland. Wouldn't you know Gregory Bland's daughter would marry somebody like John Coggan?" Hearing of Theodorick's death, John must have seen the necessity of breaking up this nest of in-laws. His key objective was to reclaim and consolidate the family fortune. By now, John had used up Adam, William, Edward and Theodorick. This time he had to dig deeper. He sent his only surviving son, Giles Bland, to Virginia to set things straight.

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1 Fleet, Vol. 13, pp. 61, 68, 71.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., p. 95.

Giles Bland and the Family Claim: 1674-1675

Giles Bland was a chip off the old block. Charles Campbell, using genealogical material held in the 18th century by Theodorick Bland (1740-1790), indicates that Giles was "a man of strong parts but of great passions, haughty and imperious beyond bearing."[1] This is a fair summation of Giles, to which should be added that he possessed all the heavy-handedness and political naivete of his father. As an adult he was an attorney. It is not certain where he was trained, but by 1665-1666, Pepys' diaries make clear that he was shuttling to and from Tangier in service to his father,[2] and he certainly was involved in the dispute between John Bland and Colonel Norwood in 1668-1669. For the next few years, his activities are unknown, but he probably returned to Tangier with John and Sarah in 1670. He first appears in the Virginia records about the autumn of 1674, and given the rather slow means of responding to situations across so great a distance in those days, that lapse of time before his arrival, following Theodorick's death, is about right.

Once in Virginia, Giles moved quickly to recover the Bland family property, or to dispose of it. He appears to have reclaimed the biggest piece of land, Kymages, without difficulty, in a transaction consummated with his cousin, Edward Bland, on March 20, 1674/1675.[3]

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1 Campbell, The Bland Papers (1840), p. 146.

2 Pepys, Vol. VI, p. 65.

3 Hening, Vol. VI, p. 303, Sarah Bland, 1681, returned 2,000 acres of the Kymages tract to Edward Bland. Upon his death in 1690, the returned land was deeded to Edward's heir, John, and upon his death sometime after 1704, the property was given to John's sister, Sarah. Cf. Nugent, Vol. II, p. 217.

Giles also liquidated at least two of the land holdings, "Basses Choice" in December 1675, and "Lawnes Creek" in January 1675/1676.[1]

The property that had been in clear title of Theodorick Bland was not so easy to recover. Anna Bennett Bland, one must remember, was now administratrix of Theodorick's estate and mother of his three minor sons. Probably, she had uppermost in her mind the preservation of Theodorick's wealth, that it might be passed on to them. As a result, "in accommodating ye whole affaire with his aunt, he found many difficulties."[2] Giles first moved legally against Anna on November 18, 1674,[3] but had in fact been attempting for several months to negotiate with her. His attempts at settlement seemed more in the nature of uncompromising demands, and showed a striking spirit of meanness and lack of generosity. For example, he demanded that Anna turn over to him a mare that Theodorick had left specifically for a son.[4] Anna Bennett was not without her defenses in this matter. She was, after all, the daughter of a former governor, and soon after the onset of her quarrel with Giles Bland, she married Colonel St. Leger Codd, of Northumberland County, Virginia, a lawyer and military man who was active in the Virginia government, and who supported Governor William Berkeley during Bacon's Rebellion, 1675-1676.[5] Giles' niggardly behavior may have driven Anna to marry St. Leger Codd. It is clear

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1 Davis, Surry County Records, p. 137; and Nugent, Vol. II, p. 217. Cf. WMQ (I), Vol. V. (1900), pp. 214-215.

2 VMHB, Vol. 21, p. 127.

3 McIlwayne, p. 394.

4 Ibid., pp. 448-449.

5 VMHB, Vol. 10 (1901), pp. 374-375.

that in the long and drawn out dispute that followed, Colonel Codd became very much involved, and given his connections in Virginia (he was a member of the House of Burgesses 1680-1682) might have been the critical reason for Anna's ultimate success in holding the property. But Codd was not the only Berkeley loyalist that Giles angered in his dispute with Anna. More important was Berkeley's Secretary of State, Thomas Ludwell. On October 3, 1674, Giles and a traveling companion stopped at Ludwell's home while he was away, and in the custom of the time, were offered food and lodging for the night. Ludwell returned, found the two men there and after a few glasses, the subject turned to John Bland's claim against Anna Bennett:

> ...both (Ludwell and Bland) heated with too much brandy and wine...Ludwell (told Giles Bland) that his father had sent him to Virginia with forged writings to cheate a widowe.[1]

With these words, gentlemanly discussion turned sour. Giles called Ludwell a "pittyful fellow, son of a whore, mechanic fellow, puppy and coward."[2] What happened next is not certain. Giles claimed that the two men exchanged gloves, signifying their acceptance of a duel. Ludwell claims that Giles woke up next morning and stole his glove. What is certain is that Ludwell's glove next day was nailed to the statehouse door, with various and sundry crude remarks.[3]

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1 VMHB, Vol. 20 (1911), pp. 350-52, and Vol. 21 (1912), pp. 126-27 and 132-133.

2 Ibid. Of all these epithets, only "mechanic fellow," meaning loosely, common man, does not have modern currency. Ludwell alleged these comments. Giles never admitted them.

3 Ibid.

It was not an auspicious beginning for Giles. At the very least, his quarrel with Ludwell was ill-chosen, and in no way helped him settle his father's property claims. But an attack on a highly placed government official had far worse consequences: it left Giles in bad odor with the ruling power, Governor Berkeley. Giles was ordered to "immediately acknowledge the horrid injuries he hath done (to Ludwell)" and was ordered to publicly ask forgiveness, in addition to which he was fined 500 pounds, payment of which was held in abeyance until Giles had an opportunity to appeal.[1]

Giles did apologize publicly to Ludwell, but with such sarcasm and anger that no one who heard it thought he had repented. He never paid the 500 pounds.

On His Majesty's Service: Giles Bland, Custom's Collector, 1675-1676

Giles' inflammatory work with his father and his intemperate clash with Ludwell in Virginia, should have served as a warning against entrusting him with further responsibilities, but it didn't. On February 12, 1674/1675, the customs service in England, as an able extension of the government and ever watchful for the opportunity of doing the wrong thing, appointed Giles Bland as the crown's collector of customs in Virginia. The customs officer interpreted and enforced the new colonial Navigation and Trade Acts, formulated in 1651 and revised 1660, 1662 and 1673. It demanded a person with a tactful and compromising temperament, who could tread carefully between the financial interests of the local powers, who sought trade with the least

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1 Ibid.

encumbrances, and the crown, which wanted to maximize revenues to the state. In colonial America, these two interests were always in conflict. Conciliation was impossible anyway. The appointment of Giles Bland was utter insanity.

The Navigation Act of 1673 had established a single customs officer in each of the American colonies. He was to ascertain that every ship entering and departing Virginia waters had complied with the rules and laws on customs duties, as set forth by the Trade and Navigations Acts. Further, the Act of 1673 changed the customs officer's salary from a fixed fee to a percentage of receipts.[1] This last piece of lucre gave incentive to the customs officer to do all that he could to collect as much as he could for the King's treasury, thereby enhancing his personal fortune as well. The previous, fixed salary arrangement had made the customs officer much more the creature of local authorities. This feature of the new law tended to compound the Berkeley government's already well stimulated antipathy toward Giles Bland. Thus, the unhappy juxtaposition of events: Giles was appointed customs officer at just the time when local hostility toward him was highest. In the process, Giles' rather unbecoming behavior with Anna Bennett became the catalyst for conflict with the Berkeley government on a state level, for Giles was in effect an extension of the King's power.

Giles undoubtedly was appointed to the customs post through John Bland's influence, as well as by the influence of Thomas Povey, and perhaps Samuel Pepys. It is important to note that about the time

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[1] Thomas Barrows, Trade and Empire: The British Customs Service in Colonial America (1967), pp. 20-24. Cf. Charles M. Andrews, The Colonial Period of American History, Vol. 4 (1938), pp. 119-121, 137.

Giles went to Virginia, he had married Povey's daughter, Frances. Povey was one of the Masters of Requests in the government of Charles II, and as Pepys' diaries make clear, an old and trusted friend of John Bland.[1] Significantly, when John Bland drew up his will, he appointed Povey his executor.

Giles also was in touch, through John, with William Blathwayt, a key member of the Lords of Trade and Plantations. And through a cousin connection involving a marriage by one of his uncle Robert Bland's (1617-1669) daughters, Giles was in touch with Sir Joseph Williamson.[2] Finally, of course, the Blands had influence with Samuel Pepys. Thus, Giles Bland not only had land and its concomitant influence within Virginia, but also formidable lines of communications to the centers of commercial power within the government of Charles II. In the end, Giles' communications with these gentlemen would form the prevailing opinion in England about what was happening in Virginia, during the time of Bacon's Rebellion. It would be an unhappy time for Governor Berkeley and for Giles Bland as well.

From what we know of John Bland and his character, it would seem obvious that he looked to Giles' appointment as a way of enhancing his connections in Virginia. But Giles' behavior in the new job did not bode well for the future. In September 1675, some six months after he started the appointment, Giles wrote a defiant letter to Governor Berkeley, citing case complaints that made it obvious he was at odds with the local authorities from the very beginning. Shunning subtlety,

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1 John and Giles Bland's relationship with Povey, William Blathwayt and Sir Joseph Williamson, are discussed in Washburne, Bacon's Rebellion, pp. 232-245.

2 Ibid., pp. 242-244; cf. pp. 63-64.

Giles put Berkeley on notice that, acting as the King's representative, he had exclusive authority in customs matters, whereas Berkeley had none (a misunderstanding of jurisdiction under the Trade Acts). Having denied the old man everything, he proceeded to inform him, in a brilliant irony that seemed to escape Giles, that he could not enforce the Acts "without your honor's assistance." Giles lectured Berkeley further that to date, he had done all that he could to impede the customs work. Giles went on to list several examples,[1] all of them undoubtedly true, which substantiated his allegations, and then laid down the law to Berkeley:

1. Giles wanted a single customs house for all shipping into and out of the York and James Rivers. Giles would have sole charge of the central customs house.

2. Customs deputies, appointed by and accountable to Giles, would be stationed throughout the colony.

3. All of Giles' appointments would be certified by Berkeley.

4. The governor would supply a copy of all bonding information to Giles.

Giles reminded Berkeley that due primarily to his interference in customs matters, the Acts of Trade were being daily violated; unauthorized European goods were coming into the colony, and Virginia commodities were being exported wholesale without payment of duties.[2]

Now, Governor Berkeley's Green Spring faction was truly an unholy gang of thieves, if ever there was one, and Giles Bland's allegations were probably dead accurate. But truth is beside the point. Giles, in accusing Berkeley of violating the Acts of Trade, was in essence

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1 Barrows, p. 22, and McIlwayne, pp. 435-436.

2 Barrows, p. 22. Barrows' authority is the Egerton Mss. 2395, Folio 515.

accusing the governor of treason against the king. And unfortunately for Giles, the Acts of Trade did not leave colonial governors without latitude. They, too, were creatures of the king. Not only that, but sources of Giles' power were across the Atlantic ocean, while Berkeley and his henchmen were neighbors, as it were, just a stone's throw away. Giles' accusations were void of any political acuity, and the governor's response was swift and certain. Giles was suspended from the customs post and placed under the sheriff's custody. Apparently, he was not actually jailed. The Council of Virginia, probably cringing at the proximity to truth of Giles' accusations, condemned the letter as an affront to the government. Berkeley himself, as Giles told it, angrily told Bland that if he attempted to clear any ships, he would "jay me by the heeles, withall, calling me villain, puppy and such like."[1]

That was not the end of it, however, for no matter how powerful Berkeley was locally, the extent of his authority in relationship to Bland was never clearly defined. Giles simply refused to recognize the suspension. Philip Ludwell wrote to his brother Thomas in London in June 1676 that Giles Bland:

> ...refuses to have any of his papers recorded, yett sayes all the world (though he keeps them in his pockett) ought to be obliged to obey them, and within these two howers most malapertly to the Governor's face, thretened the Councell to give an account of them to England...[2]

Although the London authorities appear to have commiserated with John Bland about his son's suspension, and in fact forbade the imposition of the 500 pound fine for his confrontation with Thomas Ludwell,

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1 Ibid. Egerton MSS 2395, Folio 515 and 565. Cf., McIlwayne, p. 423.

2 Washburne, The Governor and The Rebel: A History of Bacon's Rebellion in Virginia (1957), pp. 54, 198.

nothing was done to reverse the Virginia government's action. Thomas Barrows summed up the situation accurately:

> In all probability, Bland would have been removed from his collectorship, even had he not participated in Bacon's rebellion. The customs officers alone could not effectively enforce the Acts of Trade. If they were at odds with the local authorities, there were two possibilities: to replace the customs officer or remodel the colonial government. Of the two, the former was by far the easier.[1]

There is no denying that Giles Bland's alliance with Nathaniel Bacon was the last straw for Berkeley. At the same time (1675-1676), Giles was sending derogatory reports about his government back to England. Berkeley had his back to the wall and was rapidly losing control of the situation in Virginia. Once he regained his power, Berkeley's retribution, in true 17th century fashion, was swift, sure, unmerciful, and cost Giles Bland his very life.

Giles Bland, Rebel: 1676-1677

The chain of events that ended in Bacon's Rebellion began in July 1675, when a party of Doeg Indians took some hogs from a frontiersman in Stafford County, claiming he had failed to settle with them for some goods he had bought. The settler retaliated by killing or beating several of the Indians and taking back his hogs, whereupon the Doegs retaliated with a full force raid in which one of the settler's servants was killed. The settlers along the Stafford-Westmoreland county line launched an indiscriminate attack upon several Indian tribes. By

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[1] Barrows, p. 23.

January 1675/1676, Governor Berkeley was forced to take action to suppress the spreading unrest.[1]

Berkeley, who had generally followed a conciliatory policy with the Indians, chose a defensive policy over retaliatory assault. His solution was a series of forts, for which he would lease contracts, to be situated at the head of each major river, and to be manned by 500 solders conscripted from the lower counties. Berkeley added a further provision that even if the Indian enemy was spotted, he was not to be attacked until the governor gave his approval, by which time, as frontiersmen knew, the Indians would have slipped away into the woods. None of this was likely to win the frontiersmen, who were up in arms about the perceived Indian danger, particularly those from Surry and New Kent Counties who had mutinied against Berkely over taxes, and who perceived this basically static defensive plan as worthless against the mobile and roving Indian forces. Rather, they saw it as another instance of Berkeley's Green Spring faction profiting at their expense.

Into this credibility gap came Nathaniel Bacon, a man about the same age as Giles Bland (Bacon was 29 in 1675), and a newcomer to the colony, whose wife was a close friend of Berkeley's wife, and who was quickly appointed to the Governor's council. Although Bacon was not a radical by nature, he did seem to have a "certain disdain for wealthy Virginians, who had reached their position from 'vile' beginnings or 'whose tottering fortunes have bin repaired and supported at the public chardg,"[2]

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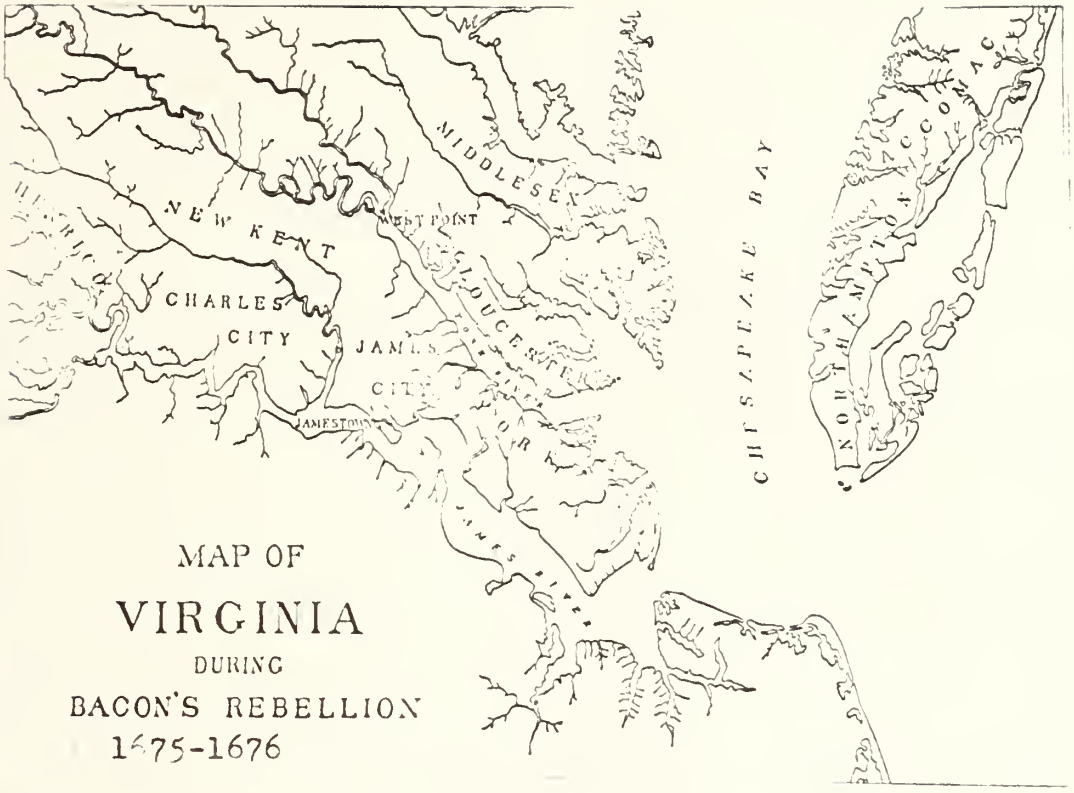
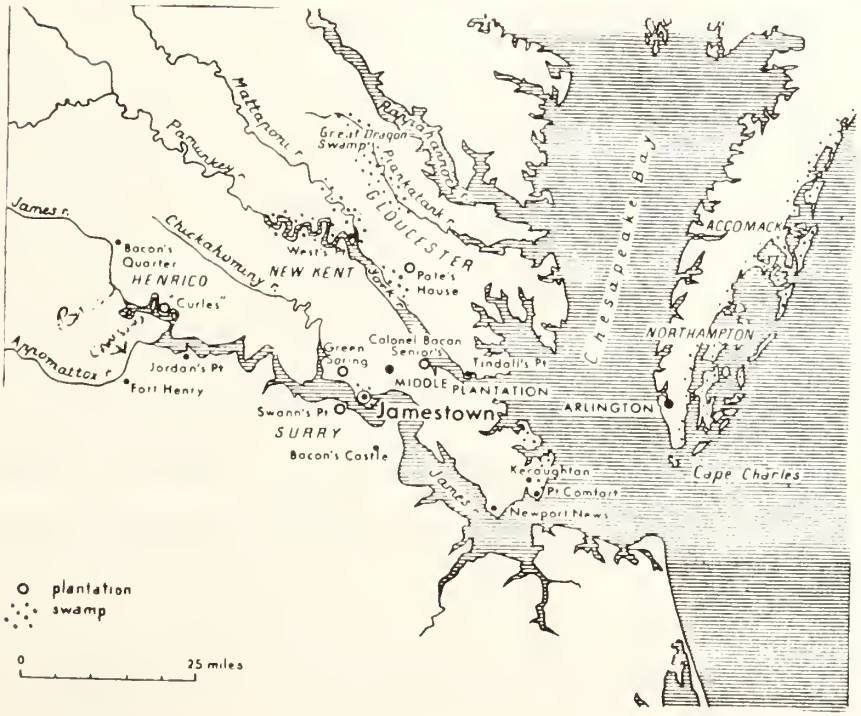
1 The following discussion of Bacon's Rebellion is derived from Edmund Morgan, American Slavery, American Freedom (1975), pp. 250-292, passim.

2 Morgan, p. 255.

MAP III



MAP IV



The James River area, 1675-1676. Note Jordan's Point. The Bland family property was in this area, just south of the juncture of the James and Appamatox Rivers.

Well-off Virginians who were on the outs with the local government, men specifically like Giles Bland, or who just had not been able to get into the Berkeley faction, began to coalesce around Bacon. Undoubtedly Giles Bland was present when, one day in April 1676, Bacon and some of his neighbors got together for a few social drinks. No doubt at this gathering fiery discontent against Berkeley was vented. Later in the month, Giles wrote to Sir Joseph Williamson that "the state of things heere...I find to be in a verie distracted posture." Giles went on to remind Williamson, one of the eyes and ears of the king, that Virginia yielded about 100,000 pounds of revenue to the king through its commerce, and this bounty was endangered if something was not done to curb the profligacy of Berkeley's faction. Giles also spoke darkly of "a considerable Bodie of the Countrie (which had) armed themselves without comission against theire enemies,"[1] the Indians.

The Indians then became the catalyst for the grievances of propertied men against Berkeley. To these were added the lower classes, the small property owners and recent freedmen who bore their own grudges against Berkeley, and also were afraid of the Indian threat. Giles Bland cultivated the anger of this group, encouraging them to appeal to the King directly against the extortionary policies of the Green Spring faction, and he got these lower classes to nominate him to be their spokesman back in London.

This was about June 1676, when Berkeley's agents had been compelled to appear in London before the Commissioners of Customs to answer charges Bland had brought against them. Bland's constant flow

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1 VMHB, Vol. 20 (1912), pp. 352-353. Cf. CSPC, IX (1675-1676), pp. 385-386.

of information informing the Commissioners of the disintegration of authority in Virginia undercut attempts by Berkeley's agents in London to discredit negative information.

In the information war, Giles' insistent clinging to the customs position was critical for awhile, for he and Bacon were thus able to get their letters and reports to England during the late spring and summer, and into the fall. Berkeley, on the other hand, was unable to get his communications to the king because of the interceptive powers inherent in Bland's customs post.[1]

On July 8, 1676, Giles informed his father-in-law, Thomas Povey, that he had got into the position of spokesman for the discontented in Virginia because:

> ...the country has resolved to make known to his majesty their deplorable and distressed condition, through the great and heavy burthens of taxation laid upon them, and the continual murders committed by the heathen.[2]

To reduce a lot of complicated activities to a few sentences, Bacon and his lieutenants sought to get a commission from Berkeley for a "moving force" to carry out a sustained Indian war on the frontier. When Berkeley refused, the Bacon group proceeded without warrant. This was pure and simple insubordination, and on May 10, 1676, Berkeley removed Bacon from the council and denounced him publicly. Bacon, by now completely outside the blanket of government authority, launched a campaign against all Indians, even killing at one point a group of friendly Occaneechee Indians who had just captured a party of Susquehannahs for Bacon. By now Berkeley considered Bacon's activities, and Bland's, treason, and he so defined it, thus alienating and pushing

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1 Washburne, Governor and Rebel, p. 93.

2 CSPC, Vol. IX, 1675-1676, pp. 426-427, and Morgan, pp. 255-256.

Bacon's group further into desperation. Nor did Berkeley win favor among the lesser followers of Bacon by calling them "the lowest of people," a description that was mild compared to other comments made by the Green Springs group.

The assembly elections in late May went overwhelmingly to Bacon sympathizers. Bacon arrived in Jamestown on June 6; his leaders, Bland among them, and fifty armed men coming in on a sloop. This gave Berkeley an opportunity to seize Bacon, and after securing a written confession of disloyalty, thrust him before the House of Burgesses on bended knee. Then in an about-face, possibly an attempt at conciliation, Berkeley released Bacon, who quickly departed Jamestown, and contrary to Berkeley's hopes, began regrouping his forces. Two weeks later, he appeared in Jamestown again, this time with a force of five hundred behind him, sufficiently overwhelming any militia Berkeley had on hand.

Exasperated, Governor Berkeley strode out of the statehouse and in a dramatic gesture, bared his breast and shouted at Bacon: "Here! Shoot me, foregod, fair Mark, shoot." Bacon didn't shoot, thus forfeiting one of the rare opportunities man is given to do a truly good work. Instead, he demanded the commission he had so long sought from Berkeley. This time, he had the strength in numbers to get what he came for. The commission gave Bacon authority to raise as many volunteers as he could, and if he saw fit, to transform the volunteers into government forces. After the deed was done, Berkeley attempted vainly to rally a counter force around him, voicing the claim that Bacon's commission, wrenched from him at gunpoint, was null and void. But the governor's power and authority had slipped away. To use a modern phrase, the

hearts and minds of Englishmen in Virginia belonged to Bacon. "Everything is now deplorable here," wrote Berkeley to Thomas Ludwell in England on July 1, 1676, "and three young men that have not beene two years in the Country absolutely governe it: Mr. Bacon, Mr. Bland and Mr. Ingram."[1]

For the next several months, Bacon's army and the disorganized forces of Berkeley's government marauded around the country, seeming to vie with one another in who could out-plunder who. In August, Bacon dispatched Giles Bland and another lieutenant to Jamestown to capture the governor, but in a momentary reversal of his bad fortunes, Berkeley's men captured Bland instead. Inspired by this success, Berkeley made a desperate last gamble to regain control by offering freedom to the servants who would rally to his banner. This backfired in two ways. First, it angered the more well-to-do who had a vested interest in keeping the lower classes under their heels, and secondly, the lower classes no longer felt that Berkeley could deliver the goods. Bacon swept into Jamestown, bringing in his wake a swollen army of conscripts he had gathered by making promises similar to those made by Berkeley. After a brief resistance, Berkeley and his faction fled Jamestown for England, and Jamestown was burned to the ground on September 19.[2]

Ultimately, however, the rebellion failed. Giles Bland was probably released when Bacon burned Jamestown, but on October 26, 1676, which was Giles' birthday, Nathaniel Bacon died of the "bloudy flux"

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1 Washburne, Governor and Rebel, pp. 69, 203.

2 Ibid., pp. 72, 77 and 78.

and the rebellion petered out. By the following January, Berkeley was back at Green Springs, repatriating the small fish, reinstating his friends, and meting out his justice to the surviving instigators of the rebellion, including Giles Bland.[1]

By February, an investigating team commissioned by Charles II, arrived in Virginia to inquire into the causes of the rebellion and to recommend remedies.[2] These commissioners were armed with a general pardon by the king for all who submitted to his authority. But Charles II had not reckoned upon William Berkeley's outrage. In particular, Berkeley wanted Giles Bland dead, and he refused to bend to the king's will. By the time word could get back to England, the deed was done. Giles was tried March 3, 1676/1677, convicted and sentenced on March 15, and hanged March 27, 1677. It profited Giles Bland nothing that Charles II sent a letter to Berkeley, sharply rebuking him for his lese majeste in modifying the royal pardon. The letter was mailed by the king in May and it reached Virginia in September, by which time Berkeley himself was dead.[3] Such was the nature of communication in those days.

For John Bland and Sarah Greene, then in Tangier, the news of Giles' death was grievous and terrible. John, who was in failing health, and Sarah returned to London. John quickly sent to Virginia for his daughter-in-law, Frances Povey, and returned her to his home,

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1 Morgan, pp. 268-269.

2 One of the investigators, Sir John Berry, was a close friend of John Bland and Thomas Povey.

3 Morgan, pp. 272-275; Hening, Vol. II, p. 550; CSPC (1677-1680), Vol. X, pp. 14, 42-43, 165, 189.

where she gave birth to John's grandson on November 5, 1677.[1] Now John had lost three brothers and a son to Virginia. But John, now old and enfeebled, was not one to change a method that didn't work. Finding that Giles' execution had left the Bland property in Virginia unprotected, and that "divers persons under several pretensions... have procured themselves of the slaves, cattle and other goods belonging to him," John, in July 1678 hustled his wife Sarah out to Virginia to continue the effort of recovering the family estate.[2] The odds against success were high, but if anyone could do it, Sarah Greene was the woman for the job.

A Feminine Standoff: Sarah Greene vs. Anna Bennett

If the most cogent imagery for her mother-in-law, Susan Deblere, was of the physically strong, enduring matriarch, then her daughter-in-law, Sarah Greene, evokes the image of a flinty woman of quick wits, and like her husband, dogged determination.

I have a hunch that Sarah was close to her mother-in-law. The uncertain business fortunes of her husband in the 1640's and 1650's, and the loss of two of her sons in the same period, could have made them close, for surely Susan Deblere could tell Sarah of grief. Also, while John Bland made his first trip to Tangier in the fall of 1664, Sarah remained behind in London, joining John only in late February 1664/1665, just two weeks after Susan Deblere died. It is fortuitous that Susan Deblere died when she did, for if she had lived on for a

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[1] The reader will recall from the previous chapter that John treated Frances and his grandson, John, generously in his will. Cf. p.

[2] Williams, Op. Cit., p. 28; CSPC, Charles II, Vol. X (1677-1680), p. 275.

few more months, Sarah might have stayed with her in London, and herself died in the plague that struck London in the summer of 1665.

An enchanting human warmth in the married lives of John Bland and Sarah Greene is implied in Pepys' diaries, which speak of large, boisterous communions among business associates, good food and a large home that was fairly alive with multiple families of kinsmen and boarders.

Even in advanced age, Sarah appeared able to turn male heads, suggesting that indeed she was a beautiful woman. Pepys, one of the most accomplished womanizers of the time, clearly admired her, and Sarah must have enjoyed his company. Two profuse and strangely spelled letters from Sarah to Pepys have been preserved and they fairly brim with girlish delight in his assistance to her in making a connection to Tangier:

> Really sir...he (the captain) did treat me with that respect that if I had been the greatest lady in England, he could nott show me more, and clearly it was upon your account.[1]

Romances seem to have danced near Sarah on several occasions, though there is not a shred of evidence, in Pepys' diaries especially, where such accounts of his affairs with other women are prolific, or elsewhere, that Sarah was ever unfaithful to John.[2]

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[1] Sarah Bland to Pepys, Rawlinson Mss, A174, Folio 95, and Pepys, VI, pp. 42-45.

[2] It appears that Sarah, between 1688-1691, had some kind of romance with William Blathwayt, Secretary to the Lords of Trade, who was acquainted with her former husband and was her advocate during her dispute with Anna Bennett Bland Codd and St. Leger Codd. Yet even this is a bit improbable, for Blathwayt was 39 or 40, and Sarah was well into her sixties. Most likely, Sarah had a flirtatious and coy way of writing, her own version of Machiavellian coquettery, which unsuspecting historians mistake for romantic interest.

Pepys seemed rather to admire Sarah Greene, whom he considered an astute business woman, his equal in fact. On December 31, 1662, Pepys came away from a business meeting at John Bland's house, "above all, pleased to hear Mrs. Bland talk like a merchant, in her husband's business very well, and it seems she doth understand it and perform a great deal."[1] Again on September 8, 1664, Pepys remarks of Sarah, "I being fain to admire the knowledge and experience of Mrs. Bland, whom I think as good a merchant as her husband."[2] Pepys was an acute observer and the fact that he spoke of Sarah with such admiration indicates that she was an exceptional presence.[3]

Sarah showed her sheer gutsiness in following through as her husband's emissary in Virginia from about 1678-1682. Armed with a power of attorney, she literally took on the government of Virginia in an attempt to get the family's estate settled. In this, she seemed to show some grace with her kinsmen, for whereas Giles had simply taken back the entire acreage of Kymages, Sarah, in 1681, returned 2,000 acres to her nephew, Edward Bland.[4] But she got no further with Anna Bennett than had her son, Giles.

Following his dispute with the Berkeley faction, Giles was blocked by Berkeley's men in his suit against Anna Bennett Bland and St. Leger Codd.[5] An entry by the council and general court dated March 21,

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1 Pepys, Vol. III, p. 300.

2 Chappell, p. 29.

3 Alice Clark, Working Life of Women in the Seventeenth Century (1968) pp. 38-39. Clark uses Sarah Greene Bland as a case example of her conclusions.

4 Hening, Vol. VI, p. 303.

5 McIlwaine, pp. 448-449.

1675/1676, postpones the hearing. Soon after, Giles became embroiled in Bacon's Rebellion and did no more with the family estate. Prior to going to Virginia, however, Sarah Greene had taken up, in London, much of the work that had been undertaken in Virginia by her son. On April 22, 1676, Sarah filed a petition to the king, complaining about the "unexampled severity" of the Berkeley government's actions against Giles. She asked the king to revoke both the 500 pound fine against Giles, and his suspension from the Collector of Customs post. Further, she entreated the king to end the "prejudice and bitterness" with which Giles was being treated in Virginia.[1] This appeal was referred to the Lords of Trade and Plantations, who ordered that the charges be supplied the Virginia agents and that both parties attend a meeting of the board on June 8, 1676.[2]

Thomas Ludwell himself arrived at the hearing to defend Berkeley, and he came out swinging, "finding himself...bespattered with a part of that dirt which is thrown upon the whole government of Virginia by ...Mrs. Bland."[3] Clearly, Ludwell was going for the jugular when he claimed, in answer to the often repeated assertion that John Bland had invested over 10,000 pounds of family money in Virginia, that if the account books of Edward and Theodorick Bland could be produced, "not a fifth part of the sum mentioned in the petition was laid out in the plantations or other estates."[4] Ludwell retold the story of how Giles came to his home and how the two men had argued about Giles' suit against Anna Bennett Bland, and the insulting letter (by Ludwell's

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1 CSPC, CII (1676), p. 379.
2 CSPC, CII (1676), pp. 397-398.
3 VMHB, Vol. 21 (1913), pp. 128-131.
4 Ibid.

lights) that Giles had written to Governor Berkeley in September 1676. When he was finished, it was clear that Ludwell would concede nothing to Sarah's sex or case. Things were now coming to a head in Virginia. One wonders if Sarah was fully aware of the seriousness of the civil disorder in Virginia, how deeply her son was involved, and that her (actually her husband, John's) persistence in the face of it was slowly tightening the noose (literally) around her son's neck.

The family matter went unresolved.[1] A few months later Giles was arrested. As noted, he may have been released, but eventually was recaptured by Berkeley and hanged. Sarah is not heard from again until July of 1678 when, armed with her husband's power of attorney, and a note from King Charles to Lieutenant Governor Jeffreys, she went to Virginia to settle her husband's estate. She was in Virginia when John died in June 1680, and in his final will, he made this poignant statement:

> I...feeling noe greater griefe under my many adversities and infirmities I now labor under, than her/ Sarah's/ necessary absence in Virginia about my unhappy affairs and estates there, she having been the principal comfort of my passed life, and by her exemplary virtue, discretion, affection, prudence and patience, having deserved much more from mee than I am able to give...[2]

Perhaps because of her husband's death, Sarah went back to London, leaving William Fitzhugh as her attorney to finish up the case in Virginia.[3] Her family was now in tatters, with her husband and all her children dead. Her daughter-in-law, Frances Povey Bland, was now remarried and lived with Sarah's only grandchild away from London.

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1 VMHB, Vol. 21, pp. 134-135; and CSPC CII, Vol. 9, 1675-1676, p. 404

2 Waters, p. 815; Carlisle, p. 145.

3 Richard Beale Davis, Ed., William Fitzhugh and His Chesapeake World 1676-1701 (1963), pp. 116-117.

Undaunted, Sarah pressed forward with her suit against Anna Bennett Bland and St. Leger Codd, which continued from 1682-1687. There seems to have been a pattern wherein Sarah won in British hearings only to have the decision stalled or picked apart in the Council and General Court of Virginia.

On March 19, 1682/1683, Fitzhugh wrote to Sarah that he had attempted a reconciliation of interests with Anna and St. Leger Codd, but had been unsuccessful in the attempt, and recommended her to William Blathwayt, the Secretary of the Lords of Trade and Plantations, where her case was lodged.[1] The Lords had commanded both Sarah and the Codds to appear before them to litigate the case, and perhaps sensing the unfairness of the Virginia government's treatment of Sarah, had allowed her to post necessary securities in England in order to move the case along.[2] Nothing more was heard until May 5, 1684, when Governor of Virginia, Lord Effingham, lamented to the Lords his inability to nullify the king's summons to Colonel Codd, "to answer Sarah Bland's appeals, but I will represent to his majesty, how unfairly and untruly she has stated her case."[3] A similar statement was filed by the Council of Virginia on June 23, 1683.[4] The matter dragged on without any substantial development until February 1685-1686, when the Lords of Plantations, upon the recommendation of the interested parties, referred the matter to arbitration. The arbiter was Lord Effingham, the Governor of Virginia and instrument of previous attacks upon Sarah Bland, and in every respect, hardly a disinterested party. The last

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1 Fitzhugh, pp. 140-142.

2 CSPC, II, Charles II (1681-1685), pp. 271-272, and 421. Cf., VMHB, Vol. 28, pp. 354-355.

3 CSPC, II, Charles II (1681-1685), pp. 626-627, 660.

4 Ibid.

record of the case is August 1686. In Anna Bennett, Sarah as well as John and Giles, had met her match. Anna's death in 1687 seemed to close the case. She had held on to Jordans and Westover grimly, and now the property in question reverted to her sons who were by then legal adults, Theodorick (1663-1700) and Richard (1665-1720). Perhaps it was just as well, for Sarah, now in her mid-sixties, may not have had the physical stamina to persist in the matter.

John Bland and Sarah Greene's branch of the family became extinct when their great grandson, John (1702-1750) died unmarried and without issue. Sarah Green lived out the balance of her widowhood in St. Olaves Parish at her Hart Street home, and she died there on March 4, 1712/1713.[1]

By the time of Sarah's death, the family had set down roots in the new world, thanks primarily to Richard Bland (fifth generation), the second son of Theodorick Bland and Anna Bennet, and Richard's wife, Elizabeth Randolph. His children and grandchildren would in the 18th century enjoy the fruits of the hardships borne by their ancestors in the previous century. They would come to compose a brilliant, able and distinguished family of Virginians and patriots in the American Revolution. They were the Americans.

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1 VMHB, Vol. XX (1911), pp. 374-375.

CHAPTER V

THE JAMES RIVER BLANDS OF VIRGINIA, 1687-1833

Virginia 1700

By 1700, Virginia was beginning to settle down. Politically, it was governed very loosely from England, by a governor who never set foot in the colony, but simply sold the lieutenant governorship to various surrogates, only some of whom were competent men. The result was that English control over American colonial life was largely neglectful and imprecise. Within Virginia, a three-tier class society had developed by the dawn of the 18th century, bred by a desperate need for labor, intensive capital supply and an immense potential for growth and success in the colony. If a man had a reasonable amount of capital and a white skin, he could, with skill and some luck, make a considerable fortune in Virginia.

Such a person would likely be in the top third of society, which was supported from beneath by slave labor and poor whites. Slavery was not a precisely defined institution, but by 1700 there was no question who was slave and who was master. Black skin equaled slavery, and white skin equaled lordship. By 1700, slavery as an economic system was firmly entrenched in Virginia, fueled by the enormous demand for cheap labor in service to the British trade system. Along with it went an awesome cost in moral contradiction for masters and slaves. Here, as Virginians transplanted from whatever geographic location, lived out their daily lives almost three hundred years ago, was born all the hatred, malice, suspicion and social and economic inequality that has

been the most glaring contradiction in the expressed ideals and values of the American people throughout subsequent American history.

In the middle was a class of people that for lack of a better term may be called poor whites. They might be native born, but also included a substantial number of immigrants, fueled by the same labor demand that created slavery, the only difference being that as Englishmen, or as whites, at least certain minimal human rights were guaranteed to them. They had been recruited from the poor farm lands in northern England and Scotland and Ireland, from the insane asylums, from prisons, and from off the streets of London and other English cities. Some lived in squalid poverty, even after reaching Virginia, and there was no master to even look upon them as a labor investment to be protected and cared for. Others accumulated varying amounts of property and capital and themselves joined the top level of society in slave ownership.

At the top were the elite, a combination of Englishborn men of wealth and title, but substantially a "creole elite," or Englishmen born in America, the sons of men who in the antecedent generation had migrated to America from England. This was, for example, the case of Richard Bland (fifth generation 1665-1720), whose father Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) had migrated to Virginia in 1653 or 1654. As the 18th century passed, these men filled the seats of power in colonial government, forming an effective provincial counterweight to the power of England. They also lived out lives and work in Virginia, developing increasingly distinctive cultural and social references, modeled consciously after England, but modified to suit the needs of Virginia.

Life in Virginia in the early 18th century seemed largely peaceful, unmarred by war, generally blessed by prosperity and growth, and seemed

to move without ripples. A prototype in the lifestyle of the Virginia elite in 1700 is suggested by the fragmentary diaries of William Byrd (1674-1744),[1] a wealthy landowner, planter and sometime gentleman politician.

Byrd lived out his life in fairly comfortable circumstances. His diary entries become tedious and stupefying, and lack the richness and delightful detail of Samuel Pepys' notes. Byrd records day after day of a pleasant, sociable and completely predictable life, one day being very much like the other. The diary shows Byrd to be a somewhat unreflective individual. There is a little of his inner feelings and thoughts, dreams and some salty observations about this or that woman, or his wife or a slave. Byrd's diary talks a great deal, however, about what he did.

As Byrd turns to the outer world however, his diary becomes a source of revelation that reveals to the modern reader a glimmering of what daily life was like in early 18th century Virginia. Byrd lived a busy life, managing the personnel and details of farm life, and himself took a hand in planting fruit trees and in other work.

With his slaves, as well as his wife, Byrd was alternately tender and compassionate, and brutal and exploitative. There are passages, for example, in which a slave is whipped for serving half-cooked bacon, or kicked for lighting a candle in daylight. Also, Byrd had an enormous sexual appetite. When his wife or another white woman was not available,

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1 Byrd's diaries are reprinted by Louis B. Wright and Marion Tinling, Ed., The Secret Diary of William Byrd of Westover: 1709-1712 (Richmond, Virginia, 1941), hereafter called Byrd I; and Wright and Tinling, The London Diary of William Byrd of Virginia: 1717-1721, and Other Writings (New York: 1958), hereafter called Byrd II.

Byrd had no hesitation in taking his sexual pleasure with a slave woman. The other side of Byrd, in this respect, was that he treated and cared for his slaves when they were sick, and provided for children and widows, when the husband or father in the slave family died or, to revert to the dark side of slavery, when he was sold away.

Byrd worried about his frequently colorful dreams, which were filled with fiery stars, lightning, flaming swords, and terrible portents, as when he dreamed the following about his wife:

> I had a bad dream this morning which seemed to foretell the death of some of my family. I thought I saw my yard full of people and when I came into the house I could not find my wife.[1]

Byrd's diary also dispels a lot of nonsensical illusions about life in early 18th century Virginia. Byrd himself was a philanderer who chased everything in skirts, feared God's wrath for it, and frequently prayed forgiveness. His neighbor's beds stank, the wife of a local minister was habitually drunk. The men and women in Byrd's life showed generosity, kindness, lust, small mindedness; in short, they were timeless. Byrd lived just across the James River from Richard Bland, in fact on the Westover estate his father had purchased from Richard Bland and his brother Theodorick in 1688. Much of his life, its slow, seemingly motionless pace, and graceful passage, free from external forces and influences,[2] probably reflects the lifestyle of his neighbor, Richard Bland (fifth generation, 1665-1720).

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[1] Byrd I, p. 60. Byrd also had a dream about his neighbor, Richard Bland, which will be noted presently.

[2] Byrd I, pp. xiii-xxv.

The Bland Family in 1700: The Hard Year

By 1700, Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns had been dead for more than a century. John Bland, the Grocer, had been dead for almost seventy years, and his wife, Susan Deblere, was dead for thirty-five years. All the children of John and Susan were now dead. Anna Bennett Bland Codd was dead, and Sarah Greene was living out the balance of her old age in solitude in London. All the passionate struggles of that earlier London family, the martyrdom of John Bland in 1555, the mental breakdown of Peter Bland, the animosity between John, the Grocer, and his brother Gregory, all these were surely receding in the minds of the living. Now a new generation was coming into maturity and facing new issues and lives, increasingly in a far away new land, Virginia.

In the previous chapter, the issues of settlement in Virginia for the Bland family narrowed by the 1670's into a dramatic power struggle over the family's vast landholdings in Virginia. It was a struggle that claimed the life of Giles Bland (fifth generation, 1647-1677). Anna Bennett held on doggedly to the Westover and Jordans estates and possibly other lands until her sons had reached a majority. When Anna died in 1687, the property reverted to her oldest son Theodorick (1663-1700), who admitted his brother Richard (1665-1720) into joint tenancy. Together they sold 1200 acres of the 2000 acre Westover estate to the Byrd family.

By 1700, the most prominent Bland living in Virginia was Theodorick Bland's and Anna Bennett's second son, Richard (fifth generation, 1665-1720). His younger brother John, by then had moved to Yorkshire in England. Richard's older brother Theodorick died in that hard year of 1700, as did Richard's first wife, Mary Swann. Mary bore Richard

seven children in the eight years of their marriage, but all of them had died before 1700. His extended family relationships were somewhat precarious. The grandchildren of his uncle Edward Bland (1614-1652) still were living in Virginia. There were some relations in the Northern Neck of Virginia, in Stafford County, and possibly Maryland (how many relatives is not certain). Certainly, some children by a Susan Bland West (fifth generation, 1632-1698) who would have been Richard's cousins, were there, and perhaps some relatives who had descended through Richard's great uncle, Thomas Bland of London (1558-1618). But it would strain credibility to think that these Northern Neck, Virginia or Maryland Blands, even if related to Richard, would have substantially comforted him. So, essentially he was alone. Richard's land acquisitions in the 1690's had not been great, but combined with what was left of his father's estate, would have been enough to make him a much sought after young widower and better times were ahead. In 1701, he married Elizabeth Randolph. Elizabeth gave him five children, all of whom lived to adulthood and married well, and he lived with Elizabeth for the remaining two decades of his life. Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph are to this chapter what John Bland and Sarah Greene were to Chapter IV. Before moving to the genealogical details of their family, however, some attention should be given to the briefer information available about Richard's two brothers, Theodorick and John (fifth generation).

TABLE VIII

THE FAMILY OF THEODORICK BLAND OF WESTOVER,

VIRGINIA: THREE GENERATIONS

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C. 1639-1687)

(5-1)	(5-2)	(5-3)
Theodorick Bland (1663-1700) married Margaret _____.	Richard Bland (1665-1720) married (1) Mary Swann in 1692; and (2) Elizabeth Randolph in 1701.	John Bland (1668-1746) married (1) Mary Breckon, date uncertain; and (2) Elizabeth Dale in 1709.

TABLE IX

THE FAMILY OF THEODORICK BLAND OF JORDANS IN VIRGINIA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (1639-1687)

(5) Theodorick Bland (1663-1700) = Margaret _____

(6-1)

Theodorick (C. 1697-1701)

(6-2)

John (C. 1698-?), married Anne West (?-1758) about 1629.

(7-1)

John Bland (1730-1750). Never married. An unspecified number of other seventh generation children died young.

The Family of Theodorick Bland: Fifth Generation

Theodorick was the eldest son of Theodorick Bland (fourth generation) and his wife, Anna Bennett.[1] He was born February 1663/1664 and died in November 1700. As an adult, Theodorick is said to have been a member of the Virginia Council, although the chief source for Council membership does not record his name as such.[2] He was a surveyor for the Virginia government in Stafford County and apparently was a fancier of thoroughbred horses.[3] He lived on the remainder of the Westover estate.

He married Margaret, a widow whose maiden name is unknown. The date of Theodorick's marriage to Margaret is not known, but may be deduced as about 1695 or 1696, inasmuch as their first child was born before 1698. His name was Theodorick (sixth generation). He died in 1700 or 1701, soon after his father. A second son, John, was born December 8, 1698. He was sixth generation in the Bland family, and as an adult he moved to Scarborough in Yorkshire County, England, where he married Anne West of Mustons in Yorkshire about 1729. Anne's birthdate is uncertain, but she died November 24, 1758. The date of death of John Bland (sixth generation) is unknown. John Bland and Anne West had a single child who lived to adulthood. His name was

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1 Information about Theodorick Bland is taken from Hiden and Jester, p. 99; Thoresby, p. 588; Hunter, p. 425; Slaughter, p. 155; Campbell, Vol. I, p. 149; Lee, p. 138; and Carlisle, p. 302.

2 William G. and Mary N. Stannard, The Virginia Colonial Register (1902: Reprinted 1965).

3 VMHB, Vol. 2, p. 295.

John (seventh generation) who was born at Scarborough in 1730. He was drowned at sea on a voyage to Malaga about 1750. John Bland and Anne West had an unspecified number of other children, all of whom died young.

The Family of John Bland: Fifth Generation

John Bland was the third son of Theodorick Bland and Anna Bennett. He was born at Westover on February 8, 1668, and died in Scarborough, Yorkshire, England sometime in 1746. John was educated in England, and was a merchant. He lived in Scarborough, and Carlisle attributes to him the construction of a road that came to be known as Bland's cliff and stretched from Scarborough to the sea. The road, according to Carlisle, was constructed at John Bland's own cost and was still operable in 1826.[1]

Perhaps John Bland's most significant contribution to the family is that he may have been the source, through marriage, of the seminal genealogical information about Adam Bland (second generation), and his family. John married first, when is not certain, Mary Breckon of Scarborough. After Mary's death (there is no record of any children), John married in November 1709, Elizabeth Dale, also of Scarborough. Elizabeth was born in 1688 and died about 1746. She was the sister of Robert Dale, who was the source in 1712 for Ralph Thoresby's genealogical portent of the Bland family in his Ducatus Leodensis (1715), which is the earliest known such treatment.

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[1] Carlisle, pp. 303-304. Other information about John Bland is found in Hiden and Jester, p. 100; Thoresby, p. 588; Hunter, p. 426; and Campbell, Vol. I, p. 149.

John Bland and Elizabeth Dale appear to have had two sons and one daughter, all sixth generation. The first of their children was Richard, born August 22, 1710. Richard was living in Scarborough unmarried in 1759. Nothing further is known of him.[1] The third child was a daughter, Anne, who was born May 4, 1714, and who died either in 1730 or 1731, unmarried and without issue.

The only child of John Bland and Elizabeth Dale who lived to adulthood, married and had children was the second son, John Bland (sixth generation), who was born at Scarborough on August 5, 1712, and died in Iford, Essex County, on November 14, 1787. A letter to Theodorick Bland (sixth generation, 1719-1784) from Richard and John Bland, his cousins, dated March 5, 1744/1745, makes it evident that John Bland was a merchant in Scarborough. The letter indicates that Richard and John Bland had visited John's home and found "he has not quitted his intentions of a Virginia trade, but is resolved to venture upon it as soon as a convenient opportunity offers."[2] John married Anne Buck of Sheffield in York County on July 1, 1739. Anne was born on August 18, 1718, and died November 10, 1770.

John Bland and Anne Buck had a large family (seventh generation) of eleven children:

The first child, and first son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was John Bland, who was born December 8, 1741, at Scarborough. As an adult he moved to Virginia and resided at Jordans, homeplace of his great uncle, Richard Bland (1665-1720). John married a widow in Virginia, whose name is not known. No children resulted from this marriage.

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1 This information is in Hunter, p. 426.

2 Campbell, Vol. I, p. 2.

The second child, and second son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Thomas Bland, who was born at Scarborough on December 6, 1742, and died on June 1, 1807, at Sheffield, York County, where he was a merchant. He married Ann Broadbent, who was born about 1742, and died in 1823. They had seven children, including six daughters and a son, of whom nothing is known.

The third child, and third son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Edward, who was born at Scarborough April 30, 1744. Edward died at sea while serving in the British Navy, in 1771. He was unmarried and left no children.

The fourth child, and fourth son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Joseph Bland, who was born at Scarborough on September 1, 1745, and died October 10, 1810, at Bush Hill in Herts County, where he had lived and worked as a merchant. Joseph married Jane Cockshutt of Huthwaite in York County. They were assumed to have married about 1770 or 1771, but Jane's dates of birth and death are unknown. Joseph Bland and Jane Cockshutt had six children, all of whom lived out their lives in England.

The fifth child, and fifth son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Theodorick Bland, who was born at Scarborough on September 21, 1746, and in his adult life moved to Stafford County, Virginia, where he resided for the rest of his life and worked as a merchant. On December 1772,[1] he married Sarah Fitzhugh, who was born August 2, 1748, and died in 1793.

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[1] VMHB, Vol. 75 (1967); and John Macklin, St. Paul's Parish, Stafford County, Virginia, 1715-1798 (1962).

It is important to distinguish between this Theodorick (the merchant) and the patriot physician and statesman, Theodorick Bland (1740-1790), also seventh generation.[1] Both were cousins, but they were entirely different men. The latter Theodorick, who descended through Richard Bland (1665-1720) and Theodorick Bland (1719-1784) will be discussed later in this chapter. Theodorick Bland and Sarah Fitzhugh had three known children: John, born April 1, 1774; Theodorick, born in 1777; and Sophia.

The son, Theodorick, and the daughter, Sophia (eighth generation) were correspondents in an exchange of letters preserved by the Maryland Historical Society.[2] In one letter, written in 1799 from Tennessee, Theodorick, a very model of enlightened thought commends to his sister the work of the early feminist writer, Mary Wollstonecraft, Vindication of the Rights of Women, which sold heavily and was reprinted four times in America:

> I do sincerely wish women enjoyed their rights according to Mrs. Wollstonecraft's ideas of them, a wife would then be indeed a treasure of inestimable value.[3]

Theodorick wrote to Sophia again on September 7, 1800, expressing his outrage at "the Baptistical preachers" he had seen in Tennessee. Out there in the early days in Tennessee, just at the dawning of the 19th century. Theodorick was getting his taste of the fire and brimstone revivalism of the Second Great Awakening:

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1 Theodorick Bland (1740-1790), the physician, soldier and patriot, is discussed in this chapter on pp. 170-181.

2 The Bland Papers, MS 134, Maryland Historical Society, cited in Henry May, The Enlightenment in America (1976), pp. 377 and 387.

3 May, pp. 225, 387.

> I have so often been gorged with the hum-drum balderdash nonsense of baptistical preachers that I had resolved not to go to meeting today, but when I got in, much to my most agreeable disappointment I beheld in the pulpit a tall, agreeable fellow, whose countenance bespoke philanthropy and benevolence, going on in a quite eloquent strain. [1]

As one can imagine, this paragon described by young Bland was a fellow Virginian of the established ministry, coming into the wilds of Virginia to save the backwoods savages from "ranting tattering puritanical preachers."[2] Later in his life, Theodorick moved to Maryland and became a U.S. District Court Judge.[3]

An interesting historical aside about Theodorick Bland (eighth generation) has to do with his appointment by President Monroe in 1819, to replace a judge who died in the midst of a prominent piracy trial that threatened to expose a Baltimore, Maryland piracy ring. Theodorick Bland was the father-in-law of one of the suspected parties, John Stuart Skinner. Monroe's motives in making the appointment might have been a hope that Theodorick would tamp down whatever damage there was to be done to the piracy business, one of the most lucrative, crooked, violent and well-respected in the country. Monroe had not, however, reckoned on the perverse interest of his anachronistically puritan Secretary of State, John Quincy Adams. To Adams, who was a paragon of clear and lucid thinking in his best moments, piracy was not a business opportunity, but piracy, and he went after Theodorick

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1 May, pp. 140, 377.

2 Ibid.

3 Dawson Notes, p. 62 (gleaned from The Bland Papers, Maryland Historical Society).

Bland like a Victorian father chasing a dustman from his daughter's bedroom. Adams dug up an old deposition that showed a loose connection between Theodorick Bland and a man named Sands, in the piracy trade, and thrust the evidence in front of Monroe who, chagrined at having this unseemly piece of evidence cast into what was otherwise not a large agenda item in his presidency, ordered the matter investigated. But Theodorick Bland retaliated, and on August 21, 1819, Adams entered in his diary:

> Judge Bland came with a number of documents which he had procured at Baltimore to discredit the reputation of Sands and his deposition against him. They do entirely discredit him. I firmly believe that Sands' deposition is false in every particular that he states respecting Bland...[1]

Adams was directed by Monroe to write a letter of apology to Bland, clearing him of the charges brought against him. Grudgingly, Adams did so, but he remained unreconciled, confiding his doubts to his diary, but noting his duty not to resist the President's wish when a decision had been made.[2]

The sixth child, and sixth son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was William, who was born at Scarborough January 16, 1747/1748, and died there in January 1748/1749.

The seventh child, and first daughter of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Anna Bland, who was born at Scarborough on May 26, 1749, and died unmarried at Sion Hill, Bath, on January 6, 1833. She was a genealogist whose information was used by Hunter in his construction of the Bland family for Familae Minorum Gentium (1895).

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1 Walker Lewis, "John Quincy Adams and the Baltimore Pirates," American Bar Association Journal, Vol. 67 (August 1981), pp. 1011-1014.

2 Ibid.

The eighth child, and second daughter of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Sarah Bland, born March 18, 1750/1751 at Scarborough. Her date of death is uncertain, but she married Thomas Miller of Iford, Essex County.

The ninth child, and third daughter of John Bland and Anna Buck, was Elizabeth Bland, born November 1, 1752, at Scarborough. She married Richard Butler, a London merchant, but by him had no children. She died in 1780.

The tenth child, and seventh son of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Robert Bland, born at Scarborough April 16, 1755. Robert served in the British Navy. He died unmarried in 1781.

The eleventh child, and fourth daughter of John Bland and Anne Buck, was Susannah, born in 1760 at Scarborough. She died unmarried at Sion Hill on November 5, 1817.

Thus, John Bland's and Elizabeth Dale's children and grandchildren lived primarily in England, but on occasion came full circle back to Virginia to their grandfather's birthplace. But no one in this line made any significant genealogical linkage for future American generations. That was left to Richard, the second son of Theodorick Bland (fourth generation) and Anna Bennett.

The Family of Richard Bland: Fifth Generation

Richard was born at Westover on August 11, 1665, and he died near there on his Jordans estate April 6, 1720.[1] Legend has it that as a little boy Richard had a cow which went with him to a small boarding school in Henrico County.[2] In his adult life Richard was a gentleman farmer; also member of the House of Burgesses for Charles City County 1700 and 1702, and for Prince George County in 1705-1706. As a farmer statesman, he was a representative of the so-called "Creole Elite" of American-born Englishmen who lived in and largely governed Virginia in the 18th century.

Previously, I indicated that in 1687, following the death of his mother, Richard's older brother, Theodorick, admitted him into joint tenancy for the landholdings that had been bequeathed them. Together they sold 1200 acres of the 2000-acre Westover estate to the Byrd family. Apparently, Theodorick Bland lived, together with his family and the family of Richard Bland, on the remaining 800 acres of land.[3]

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1 Sources for Richard Bland are prolific, but contain basically an economy of information. The discussion of Richard Bland and his descendants is taken from Hunter, pp. 425-427; Hiden and Jester, p. 100; Lee, pp. 138-140; an extract from Wyndham Robertson, provided by Mrs. Nel Ford; genealogical information provided by Mrs. Paul Gaston, Columbus, Missouri, October 6, 1980; Slaughter, pp. 155-163; Campbell, Vol. I, passim, esp. pp. 148-149, and Vol. II, passim; Carlisle, p. 302; and a genealogical log shared with me by Mr. Leslie Dawson, Plainfield, New Jersey.

2 Wyndham Blanton, Medicine in Virginia: The 18th Century (1934), p. 229; hereafter in notes referred to as Blanton.

3 Later surveys of the land actually conveyed to the Byrds show that it amounted to somewhat less than 1200 acres.

To this nucleus of land, Richard Bland began additions that continued for the rest of his life. On April 20, 1687, he was awarded 1254 acres of land in Bristol Parish, Henrico County, for transportation of twenty-six persons to the colony.[1] In April 28, 1691, Richard was awarded 593 acres of land in Charles City County as part of a clarification of entitlement due him from his father's will.[2]

This was probably the land that came to be known as Cawsons, the homeplace of Theodorick Bland (sixth generation, 1719-1784). It was just north of Jordan's where the James River joins the mouth of the Appomatox River, and was called "Causes Creek" at the time of purchase.[3]

In 1704, Richard Bland purchased 1,000 acres in Prince George County.[4] He gained another 1254 acres in Prince George County in November 2, 1705, for transportation of twenty-five persons to the colony.[5] On May 1, 1706, Bland was awarded 5,660 acres in Prince George County for transportation of 114 persons to Virginia, but then divested himself of most of this property by selling 5,644 of the same acres to William Byrd on June 2, 1707.[6]

In 1717, Richard Bland was granted 800 acres in Prince George County for cash payment.[7] On November 13, 1721, 219 acres of land he had

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1 Nugent, Vol. II, p. 307. The land Richard Bland acquired was in the area of Charles City, Surry, Prince George, and Henrico County, along the James River near the mouth of the Appomatox River.

2 Nugent, Vol. II, p. 364.

3 VMHB, Vol. 7, p. 191.

4 VMHB, Vol. 28, p. 329.

5 Nugent, Vol. III, p. 104.

6 Nugent, Vol. III, pp. 105, 107-108; VMHB, Vol. 48, p. 205, and Virginia County Records, Vol. VII, No. I (March 1910), Book 9, Henrico County Records, p. 731 (1706).

7 Nugent, Vol. III, p. 188.

TABLE X

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF SCARBOROUGH, YORK COUNTY, ENGLAND: FOUR GENERATIONS

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C. 1639-1687)

(5) John Bland (1668-1746) = (1) Mary Breckon*, and (2) Elizabeth Dale (C. 1688-1746)

(6-1)	(6-2)	(6-3)
Richard Bland (1710-living in 1759), never married.	John Bland (1712-1787) married Anne Buck (1718-1770) in 1739.	Anne Bland (1714-1731), never married.

(7-1)	(7-2)	(7-3)	(7-4)	(7-5)	(7-6)
John Bland (1741-?); moved to Virginia, married, but no known children.	Thomas Bland (1742-1807); married Anne Broadbent (1742-1823).	Edward Bland (1744-1771); died unmarried.	Joseph Bland (1745-1810); married Jane Cockshutt.	Theodorick Bland (1746-?); married Sarah Fitzhugh (1748-1793) in 1772.	William Bland (1747-1748)

(7-7)	(7-8)	(7-9)	(7-10)	(7-11)
Anna Bland (1749-1833); never married.	Sarah Bland (1750-?); married Thomas Miller.	Elizabeth Bland (1752-1780); married Richard Butler.	Robert Bland (1755-1781); died unmarried.	Susannah Bland (1760-1817); died unmarried.

* There were no known children in the marriage of John Bland and Mary Breckon.

TABLE XI

THE FAMILY OF RICHARD BLAND OF JORDANS

IN VIRGINIA: THREE GENERATIONS

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C. 1639-1687)

(5) Richard Bland (1665-1720) = (1) Mary Swann (1669-1700) in 1692*; and (2) Elizabeth Randolph (?-1719) in 1701.

(6-1)	(6-2)	(6-3)	(6-4)	(6-5)
Mary Bland (1704-1764); married Henry Lee in 1723/1724.	Elizabeth Bland (1706-C. 1781); married William Beverly (1698-1756).	Richard Bland (1710-1776); married (1) Anne Pothyress (1712-1758) in 1729; (2) Martha Macon Massie; and (3) Elizabeth Blair Bolling.	Anna Bland (1711-?); married (1) Robert Munford; (2) George Currie.	Theodorick Bland (1719-1784); married Frances Bolling (1724-1774) about 1739; and (2) Elizabeth Randolph Yates about 1780.

* Richard Bland and Mary Swann are said to have had six or seven children, all of whom died young.

purchased outright in Prince George County, were recorded, and another 240 acres were recorded on September 17, 1731.[1] In summary, Richard Bland appears to have amassed some 6700 known acres of land, a sizeable plantation though not among the largest in Virginia, and far smaller than the joint holdings of the brothers John, Edward and Theodorick Bland in the 17th century.

Periodic references to "Mr. Bland's" servants or slaves by William Byrd in his diary make it fairly clear, as would be natural, that Richard Bland was a slaveholder. An inventory of slaves held by Richard Bland on April 14, 1719, yields the names of four young slave boys between the ages of 9 and 11. They bore the names Europe, Asia, Africa and America.[2]

The life of Richard Bland at Jordans seems to have been spent, according to Byrd's diary, in relative peace and tranquility. Byrd frequently made social calls to Bland and his wife, dined with them, played cards, gossiped, schemed one or another small plot. Though Byrd's diary is too fragmentary to form a general conclusion, he makes no mention of any large scale crisis in Richard Bland's life. Byrd was evidently very fond of Richard Bland. He returned to Virginia from a stint in England just a few months before Richard died, and diary entries record Richard's end:

> February 29, 1719/1720: We...got about 11 o'clock to Mr. Bland's and found him very much indisposed but very glad to see me...I counseled Mr. Bland to drink milk from the cow every day, which he promised me to take.

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1 Nugent, Vol. III, pp. 228, 410. These two transactions apparently were recorded posthumously.

2 VMHB, Vol. 56, p. 208; information from Prince George County Order Book 1714-1720, p. 245.

> April 4, 1720: I went over the river and went to visit good Mr. Bland whom I found extremely ill, so that he just knew me. I could not forbear crying to see my friend so bad.[1]

Richard Bland died on April 6, 1720, and was buried on April 9. On that day, his friend Byrd read some Hebrew and Greek, "because I prepared to go to Mr. Bland's funeral." The funeral, as Byrd puts it, was attended by "an abundance of company of both sexes. We had a sermon and everything that was necessary for the occasion."[2] Thus Byrd, as he usually did, kept even from these intimate diaries any inner feelings or thoughts he might have had about the passing of his friend, Richard Bland.

But Byrd's inner feelings were not hidden so easily. On July 20, he had a dream in which Richard Bland appeared and told him that good people were happy but had to prove themselves by passing through the fire. In the dream, Byrd prevailed upon Richard Bland to sing for him, but Richard's voice was drowned out by a neighbor who "hindered me from hearing him."[3]

Richard Bland's first wife was Mary Swann, whom he married on September 6, 1692. Mary was born August 5, 1669, and died September 1700.[4] Traditional sources indicate that Richard and Mary had six or seven children and that all died young. On February 11, 1701/1702, Richard remarried, to Elizabeth Randolph, the ninth child of William Randolph and Mary Isham, of Turkey Island on the James River. Elizabeth's

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1 Byrd, Vol. II, pp. 378-380, 391, 393, 432, 434.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., pp. 393, 432.

4 Mary Swann's dates are from WMQ (1), Vol. XVI (1907), p. 234.

birthdate is unknown, but she died January 22, 1719/1720, just two months before the death of Richard himself. Elizabeth died because of complications in the birth of her last child, Theodorick.[1] It is through Elizabeth that the Bland family delights genealogists by tracing its lineage to Pocohontas, and even, if one fancies it, all the way back to Lady Godiva (c. 1040-1080), the famous naked equestrienne with the long blonde locks. (Imagine all that hair!)[2]

Although not enough is known about Elizabeth Randolph to pay tribute to her as to Susan Deblere and Sarah Greene in the previous chapters, it is clear that she is the central woman in the James River Bland family's development during the 18th century. As we shall see, though she was not nearly as fecund as Susan Deblere, and though we know little about her (William Byrd called her "a handsome woman"), she was one of the founding mothers of Virginia.

Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph had five children (sixth generation), that survived to adulthood. They were in order: Mary, Elizabeth, Richard, Anna and Theodorick. The logical sequence of discussion is to present the genealogical information about the daughters first, then that of the sons.

The Daughters of Richard Bland: Fifth Generation

The first child of Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph was Mary (sixth generation) who was born August 21, 1704, and died May 1764.[3]

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1 VMHB, Vol. 44 (1939), p. 255.

2 Wyndham Robertson, Pocohontas and Her Descendants (1934), and "The Line of Lady Godiva," Virginia State Library, Friends Collection.

3 The date of Mary Bland's death is surmised by a letter from Henry Lee, her son, to his brothers, dated May 13, 1764, in which he says he has just heard of his mother's death. WMQ (1), Vol. 8, pp. 34-35.

Mary was married at Dumfries in Stafford County, Virginia, about 1723 or 1724, to Colonel Henry Lee,[1] and by him had four children: John, Letitia, Richard and Henry. This is not the place to discuss the genealogy of the Lee family, but the line of Lees descending from the last son of Henry Lee and Mary Bland is significant. The last son, Henry (seventh generation) whose dates are 1729-1787, married Lucy Grymes, who was known traditionally as the Lowland Beauty.

According to information available to Campbell, Lucy Grymes' renowned beauty far exceeded her intelligence (which probably meant that every male on the James was in hot pursuit after her). Campbell ascribes to both Lucy and her husband, Henry Lee, "a rather limited intelligence." Henry Lee, their son, when asked how, in light of such doltish parents he came to be such a bright man, is said to have shrugged it off with a laugh and the observation that "two negatives make an affirmative."[2]

Among their children (eighth generation) was Henry "Light Horse Harry" Lee, born January 29, 1756, and died March 25, 1818, who married Matilda Lee, a cousin, and following her death, on July 18, 1793, married Anne Carter, by whom he had (ninth generation), Robert E. Lee, who was born January 19, 1807 and died October 12, 1870. Lee was the supreme military commander for the Confederate States of America from 1861-1865.[3]

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1 In a letter to Mary B. Lorentz, March 23, 1894, Theodore Bland, a member of the Stafford County Bland family, indicated that Mary Bland had married Henry Lee at Dumfries, a Virginia town in Stafford County, home of that branch of the Bland family. James Edgard Bland, A Genealogy of the Brown Family (1930), pp. 556-557.

2 Campbell, Vol. I, XXV.

3 Lee, p. 140; Slaughter, pp. 156-157; and Hiden and Jester, p. 100.

Sarah Fitzhugh Bland (1748-1793), wife of Theodorick Bland (seventh generation) of Stafford County, Virginia, mother of Judge Theodorick Bland of Maryland (cf. pp. 136-139). Photograph of an oil on canvas by John Hesselius.

Original painting is located at the Maryland Historical Society.

Mary Bland Lee (1704-1764), sixth generation daughter of Richard Bland (1665-1720) and Elizabeth Randolph (-1720).

Courtesy: The Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum, Delaware.

The second child, and second daughter of Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph, was Elizabeth (sixth generation) who was born May 21, 1706. Her specific date of death is unknown, but her husband's will in 1756 leaves his estate in her hands and makes it clear that she was living then.[1] Other information suggests that she was still alive in October 1781.[2] She was, as a young teenager, evidently a favorite of William Byrd, who mentions on several occasions playing cards with Elizabeth and her sister Mary.

> June 23, 1720: The two Misses Bland to play cards with me, but also others.
>
> December 12, 1720: I gave Betty Bland the chance of one card and Hannah Ludwell the chance of another, but neither won. I then danced country dances with them.[3]

Elizabeth married William Beverly (1698-1756), son of the emigrant, Robert Beverly, the famous historian of Virginia life, and Ursula Byrd. William Beverly was a man of immense wealth, owning more than 118,000 acres of land, including property upon which the famous Blandfield estate in Essex County, Virginia was constructed and named in tribute to his wife.[4] As we shall see, Beverly was not as loving and generous with the rest of the Bland family.

William Beverly and his wife Elizabeth Bland evidently had five children, including two sons and three daughters. One son, John, died young, around 1743. On May 11, 1743, Beverly writes a letter to a cousin:

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1 VMHB, Vol. 22 (1914), pp. 297-301.

2 WMQ (1), Vol. 16 (1911), p. 60.

3 Byrd II, pp. 421-422, 485. Byrd habitually cheated at cards when playing with women.

4 VMHB, Vol. 36 (1928), pp. 27-28.

> Since you left it hath pleased God in his anger to deprive me of my dear son John, in whom was my chief delight and my greatest hope, he having so fine a genius. I vainly thought he would be an exceeding great comfort to me in my old age (if I should attain it) but now he is gone the way of all flesh, and I shall endeavour not to be fond of anything in this world.[1]

Beverly's language would lead one to assume that John was a youth in his teens when he died. The other son was Robert Bland Beverly, whose birthdate is unknown, but who died in 1800, and married Maria Carter (1745-1817). Robert Beverly (seventh generation) was trained in law in England between 1750-1761, and returned to Virginia where "he spent his life quietly without desire for office higher than magistrate of his county." During the Revolution he was a Tory, but apparently kept his nose clean by staying out of politics.[2]

William Beverly and Elizabeth Bland had three daughters, of whom the oldest was Elizabeth, who married James Mill, and Ursula, who married William Fitzhugh. These two daughters were of legal age by 1756 which means that they had to be born sometime before 1738. The third daughter, Anna, was unmarried and under age 18 at the time her father's will was filed in 1756. Subsequently, she married a cousin, Robert Munford, son of Anna Bland (sixth generation) and Robert Munford.

The fourth child, and third daughter of Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph was Anna, who was born February 25, 1711/1712. Her date of death is unknown. She married twice. Her first husband was Robert Munford, whom she married about 1729. Munford was referred to as

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1 Beverly to Richard Bland, Scarborough, May 11, 1743, WMQ (1), Vol. 1, pp. 233-234; Cf. Campbell I, p. 2.

2 VMHB, Vol. 36 (1928), p. 27.

Captain Munford, and his marriage with Anna appears to have been very unhappy. By the time of his death in 1744, Munford seems to have been an alcoholic and chronically in debt. William Beverly writes in 1743:

> My sister Munford is ruined, the estate most of it sold to pay the drunken husband's debts.[1]

By 1744 Beverly, who had helped Anna Bland Munford financially, had apparently run out of patience, and much to his wife's embarrassment and chagrin, refused to help her more. In a letter dated June 4, 1745, Elizabeth Bland Beverly expresses bitterness that she would like to help her sister, but her husband will not permit it.[2] By Robert Munford, Anna Bland had three children, including two sons, Robert and Theodorick, and one daughter, Elizabeth.

Although it is not certain, the eldest son was Robert Munford (seventh generation). Robert was born in 1730 and died in 1784. He was trained at Wakefield School in York County, England. He served as a captain in the French and Indian War; following formation of Mecklenburg County, Virginia, he was appointed county lieutenant.[3] He was a member of the House of Burgesses for Mecklenburg from 1765-1776, and of the House of Delegates from 1779-1780. Interestingly, he married Anna, daughter of William Beverly and Elizabeth Bland of Blandfield, a cousin. They had three children, including Elizabeth Beverly Munford who married General Richard Kennon; Ann, who married into the Byrd family; and a son, William Munford, who was born August 15, 1775 and

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1 WMQ (1), Vol. L (1895), p. 233.
2 VMHB, Vol. 23 (1915), pp. 261-262.
3 Tylers, Vol. 3 (1921-1922), p. 177.

died June 21, 1825. This William Munford was a trained lawyer, educated at William and Mary, who published two notable translations of Homer that evidently were published posthumously in London in 1846.[1]

The second child, and second son of Anna Bland (sixth generation) and Robert Munford, was Theodorick Bland Munford born February 21, 1742/1743. He died October 1772. The third child, and only daughter of Anna Bland and Robert Munford, was Elizabeth Munford (seventh generation) who was born September 22, 1734, and who married John Bannister in 1755. The date of Elizabeth's death is uncertain. Subsequently, Bannister married directly into the Bland family, marrying Elizabeth, daughter of Theodorick Bland of Cawsons. (See discussion of Bannister's second marriage on page 169).

Upon the death of Robert Munford, Anna Bland remarried to George Currie, a lawyer and minister, and by him had two daughters (seventh generation), Anne and Margaret.

When he died on April 6, 1720, Richard Bland's children were left without parents and all were minors. Richard designated his brothers-in-law, Richard and William Randolph, as the guardians of the children, stipulating that upon the children's majority, the daughters were to receive 500 pounds sterling and various household items, while the son Theodorick was to receive the property called Cawsons, and the elder son Richard would receive all other lands, comprising the Jordans estate. All daughters were to receive two negro slaves, while the other slaves would be divided between the two sons.[2] It was not an

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1 VMHB, Vol. 31 (1923), pp. 186-187. Cf. letter Elizabeth Bland Beverly to Richard Bennett February 12, 1744/1745, cited in J. B. Hubbell, The South in American Literature: 1607-1900 (1954), p. 142. For a portrait of William Munford (1775-1825) see Hubbell, pp. 283-287.

2 Tylers, Vol. 3, 1921-1922, p. 177; Campbell I, pp. xxvii-xxviii.

unusually devised will, and as would be expected, left relatively little to the daughters and a great deal to the sons. Especially for the youngest daughter Anna, the custodial arrangement in which the Randolphs were enjoined to raise the minor children of Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph, foretold Anna's early marriage to Munford, and sealed her most unhappy fate.

Richard Bland of Jordans (Sixth Generation): Life in a Flame

Richard Bland (sixth generation) was the first of two sons born to Richard Bland (fifth generation) and Elizabeth Randolph. He was born on May 6, 1710, and died October 28, 1776. In 1729, Richard married Anne Pothyress, in advance probably of his inheriting title as an adult to his father's estate. As a youth he was educated at William and Mary College, and perhaps in England at Edinburgh University. As an adult he lived in Martin's Brandon Parish in Prince George County. He taught himself law well enough to qualify for legal practice in 1746.

Richard Bland was slight in build[1] but appears to have enjoyed good health and to have had energy to burn: He survived three marriages.[2]

As an intellectual and political man, he was representative of the "Creole" aristocrats who controlled Virginia society in the seventy-

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1 Clinton Rossiter, "Richard Bland: The Whig in America," WMQ (3) (1953), pp. 33-79, esp. pp. 37-38.

2 Ibid. It is interesting to note however that Anne Pothyress, Bland's first wife, died in 1758. She was the mother of all his 12 children. He would have been about 50 upon remarriage, but had no children by his last two wives.

five years of the 18th century in Virginia prior to the Revolution. These men have been overshadowed historically by the brilliant generation that succeeded them and conceived and executed the American Revolution: names like Washington, Jefferson, Mason, Madison, Monroe, Henry and Lee. Typically, Richard Bland's generation consisted of the large landowners and planters who in the 18th century began to breathe political life and independent power into the lower houses of assembly, to create a structural body for political exchange and discourse that would evolve into a forum in which the revolutionary generation could conceive its resistance to England.

Richard Bland and his contemporaries taught the revolutionary generation. John Adams called Bland "a learned bookish man," and George Washington recalled that he was "a man of erudition and intelligence." Jefferson remembered him, in a back-handed compliment, as "the most learned man south of the James River," which of course set poor Bland off from most of the rest of his fellows, including Jefferson, who lived north of the James.[1]

An incident involving Jefferson is especially worthy of note. In 1769, Jefferson persuaded "Colonel Bland, one of the ablest and most respected members" of the Burgesses to sponsor a modest proposal on behalf of slaves. Jefferson "undertook to move for certain moderate extensions of the protection of the laws to these people...merely to remove...restrictions imposed upon voluntary manumission..."[2] As

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[1] These quotes are found in Rossiter, passim.

[2] Jefferson to Governor Coles, August 25, 1814, quoted in Hugh Gribsby, The Virginia Convention of 1788 (1888), p. 133.

Jefferson put it, he was protected from the violent uproar that followed, because of his youth, but the "learned, patriotic Bland was denounced as an enemy of his country and was treated with the grossest indecorum."[1]

In 1774, Roger Atkinson wrote of Richard Bland, then 64, that he was:

> A very old experienced veteran at ye senate or ye bar-staunch and tough as Whitleather--has something of ye look of old musty parchments, which he handleth and studieth much...[2]

One historian has characterized Richard Bland as half a practical farmer, half scholar and lawyer, a pleasant, well-mannered person who was somewhat untidy and sloppy in his dress.[3] The same historian writes, drastically overstating the case, that Richard Bland, "more than any other man, was the author of the revolution in Virginia."[4] If that compliment goes too far, it is perhaps not too much to say that Richard Bland was the prototype of early pamphleteers who developed intellectual arguments that fueled the rebellious impulse of colonists during the 1760's. Bland was trained toward reasoned argumentation, and well ordered stability. He would have been horrified (probably was) at the flaming arguments of men like Samuel Adams and Thomas Paine, Rather, his most well remembered writings reflect the early literary motions toward resistance that by 1774 or 1775 were looked upon by his fellow Virginians as appeasement.

Briefly, the traditional story of the Revolution is that at the end of the Seven Years' War (1756-1763, known in North America as the French and Indian War), the British Empire, demanding new resources to

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1 Rossiter, op. cit., p. 36.

2 VMHB, Vol. 15 (1907), p. 356.

3 H. J. Eckenrode, The Revolution in Virginia, Vol. II.

4 Ibid.

maintain prizes won in the peace, began to tighten trade regulations in its colonial empires, including the Americas. The North American colonists, who for over a century had prospered under the loosely administered colonial system, gradually escalated acts of resistance until by 1776, they asserted their independence from England. For most of this time, they considered themselves Englishmen, as Richard Bland did. They revered the crown and England's political and social institutions, but in their arguments against England's new regulatory posture, some self-serving, some grand and noble, began to chip away at their allegiance to England, first by asserting strongly their own rights to self-government, then attacking the authority and motives of Parliament and finally, the King himself.

This is not the place to elaborate upon the above theme. Suffice it to say that in all Richard Bland wrote, he fits politically and intellectually into this earlier litigous and intellectual form of resistance. He was deeply and devoutly an Englishman. One could never imagine Richard Bland writing about the King or the King's motives as vituperatively as did, say, his nephew Theodorick Bland (1740-1790). Richard Bland served in the House of Burgesses between 1742-1775, so his public career spans the entire historical period up to the time of the severance from England and the Revolutionary War. Bland was in the thick of some five incidents of legal political controversies in the course of this long career. They were the Pistole Fee Affair, the Two-Penny Act, and subsequently the fight of native Virginians against establishment of an American Episcopate, the Stamp Act crisis, and the series of events that led to rebellion against England.

The Pistole Fee controversy was a minor incident but for subsequent acts of rebellion, prophetic in nature. When Governor Robert Dinwiddie began his tenure as Governor of Virginia, 1751-1756, he decided to tighten up the land grant practices that prevailed in Virginia by imposing a fee of one pistole (a gold coin valued in Virginia at about $3.60 in contemporary value) for each land grant transaction. This action was taken without knowledge of the House of Burgesses, who as prime property owners were the heaviest traffickers in land, and was timed so as to guarantee a rich bonus to the crown and also to Dinwiddie himself. Upon reconvening, the lower House of Assembly, in one of the earliest acts of colonial resistance, asked Dinwiddie to "acquaint us with the Authority that empowers you to demand this extraordinary fee."[1] Dinwiddie politely informed the Burgesses that it was none of their damned business. An ever escalating war of words ensued, and resulted in an appeal before the Privy Council and Board of Trade in England, whose final decision supported Dinwiddie in principle but limited his power. Richard Bland was a key participant in the deliberations in the Burgesses and composed the only extant public comment on the issue, a pamphlet called A Modest and True State of the Case. Comparison of the style of this fragment with the motions and resolutions issuing from the House of Burgesses, leaves little doubt that Richard Bland was the chief penman for the Burgesses on this issue. The Burgesses insisted upon regarding the pistole fee as a tax, and the entire affair left them with a sour taste in their mouths.

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1 VMHB, Vol. 48 (1940), pp. 209-221.

During the late 1750's, Bland was active in the Burgesses on various appropriations committees, and was a defender, with some foresight, of a young colonel of the Virginia militia named George Washington. Beginning in 1758, Bland became engaged as a primary combatant against the Reverend John Camm, representing a body of clergymen of the Church of England. Briefly, since the 17th century, the medium of exchange in Virginia had been in pounds of tobacco. A crop failure in 1758 threatened to drive the price of tobacco higher than anyone calculated, and one group that stood to profit conspicuously from the problem was the clergy, whose salary was fixed by a 1748 law at 17,280 pounds of tobacco per year. Most people however, including the members of the Burgesses, were in a position of serious potential loss. In face of this, the Burgesses in 1758 set the price of tobacco used in payment for debts at two pence per pound--hence the name, Two-Penny Act--about half the prevailing market rate.

The governor approved the act as an emergency measure, thus altering a standing salary law of 1748, in excess of his authority from the crown. The clergy in Virginia, led by John Camm, immediately rose in opposition, and successfully petitioned the Board of Trade to disallow the Act. As usual, in dealing with the Board of Trade all sorts of allies were drawn into the controversy. For the clergy, it was the Bishop of London, and when the wrath of the Virginia assembly followed the disallowance, it was directed not at the King or his representatives on the Board of Trade, but at the Bishop. The first salvo was issued by Colonel Landon Carter in 1759, followed quickly by Richard Bland's Letter to the Clergy of Virginia, a model of the colonists' early acts

of resistance to English authority. The colonists could not conceptually entertain the thought of crown or parliamentary malice toward the Virginia colony. The culprits rather were little men, plotters and certain advisors who, deliberately and with malice, misinformed the beloved king and his council. Chief of these, Bland's pamphlet makes clear, was the Bishop of London, whose letter in support of the Virginia clergy Bland called "an evidence of the imbecility of the human mind...crafty and malevolent."[1] Bland charged that neither the Burgesses nor the Two-Penny Act, but the clergy, were undermining the authority of the crown.[2]

As is the case in most of these prerevolutionary pamphlets, the words are fiery: In this case, Richard Bland accused Camm of being "very prolix in invalidating arguments that nobody lays any stress upon," while Camm in his turn calls Bland a "turbulent man who delights to live in a flame."[3] After further exchanges, Richard Bland published a famous piece on the controversy called The Colonel Dismounted, or the Record Vindicated in which Bland unmercifully ridiculed Camm by reversing roles with him, and condemning him, so to speak, from his own mouth. It was such a delicately done piece of literary savagery that Camm was reduced to explaining to his readers who was who in the dispute.

The underlying issue was long since settled in favor of the clergy when Bland wrote The Colonel Dismounted, so the chief value of it as

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1 Bernard Bailyn, Pamphlets on the Revolution, 1750-1776 (1965), pp. 295-296. The entire exchange between Richard Bland and John Camm is contained on pp. 292-354. Bailyn's work is available in a more concise form as The Ideological Origins of the American Revolution (1967) and is one of the most valuable interpretations of the Revolution.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., pp. 296, 329.

a period piece is in Bland's delineation of and attempt to clarify the roles of the English and colonial governments. His definitions were dynamite to a colony grappling for a way to locate and assert its natural sovereignity while also maintaining ties with its government and its cultural heritage. The government of Virginia, Bland asserted, was supreme over the power of parliament, and wholly independent of England except for its link to the crown, whose function in governance Bland saw as one of prescribing general limits to the Burgesses' power. Bland did not fully develop his arguments, and by 1766 when he wrote his second major treatise, An Inquiry Into the Rights of the British Colonies, in the midst of the Stamp Act controversy, the argument had given way to philosophically tighter and more forceful arguments. But the constitutional boundaries Bland had crudely delineated in The Colonel Dismounted remained at the heart of America's growing struggle with England.

In June 1764, Parliament passed an act imposing a Stamp Tax on most forms of correspondence and literature circulating in the colonies. An immediate, spontaneous and contagious storm of protest swept through the colonies, of such magnitude that the English government, caught off guard, was forced to reconsider and eventually rescind the stamp laws. Bland was part of a Virginia committee of correspondence which composed an address to King and Parliament informing them that they had no right to lay taxes upon a people unrepresented in the Parliament. The Stamp Act signaled the decline of Bland's type of prudent conservatism, the logic of well-reasoned argument, which gave way to the rising call to arms by such radicals as Jefferson and Patrick Henry. Although Richard Bland may never have used stamped paper, he was getting old by now, too

old to change his thinking, and he was no match in oratory for men like Henry. His Inquiry Into the Rights of the British Colonies, which came out in 1766, was quickly forgotten in the public furor that followed repeal of the Stamp Acts. In it, Bland expressed for the first time the critical notion of expatriation, or alienation of affections between England and her American colonial subjects. He defined expatriation as a natural right, following just cause, when subjects within a political order feel as grieved substantially to reject the contract:

> When men exercise this right, and withdraw from their country, they recover their natural freedom and independence. The jurisdiction and sovereignity of the state they have quitted, ceases.[1]

A dramatic departure! Bland's Inquiry, though not popular, was read by the people who counted and is generally considered the intellectual pregenitor of Thomas Jefferson's Summary View of the Rights of British America. But there was a difference in Bland's Inquiry and Jefferson's Summary View. Richard Bland had no stomach for severance from England. To Bland, expatriation was an intellectual possibility, stated for the record but largely a threat without true actionable substance. In 1766, no one, let alone Richard Bland, could have carried the logical consequences of the idea of expatriation as far as Jefferson did in 1774, when it became not just an idea but a mighty battle cry. Jefferson showed a keen acuity for Bland's ambivalence:

> He was the most learned and logical man of those who took prominent lead in public affairs, profound in constitutional lore, a most ungraceful speaker... He

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[1] Quoted in Garry Wills, Inventing America: Jefferson's Declaration of Independence (1978), pp. 82-84.

> wrote the first pamphlet on the nature of the connection with Great Britain, which had any pretension to accuracy of view on that subject, but it was a singular one. He would set out on sound principles, pursue them logically till he found them leading to the precipice, which he had to leap, start back alarmed, then resume his ground, go over it in another direction, be led again by the correctness of his reasoning to the same place, and again back about, and try other processes to reconcile right and wrong, but finally left his reader and himself bewildered between the steady index of the compass in their hand, and the phantasm to which it seemed to point.[1]

The kind of ambiguity and inner contradiction in Jefferson's comment delineates Bland from the revolutionary generation. Belonging to an older generation, Bland could never bring himself to go as far as the revolutionaries of the mid-1770's, and his resignation from the Burgesses in 1775 must have been greeted by relief as well as regrets, because the old curmudgeon, almost blind by then, had in his desire for settlement in peace through reason, opposed Patrick Henry's resolution to arm Virginia. Now he was gone, and the passing of his type cleared the way for the final intellectual as well as political break with England.

Richard Bland lingered on for another year. In October 1776, he came to Williamsburg as a delegate for Prince George County to the first continental state legislature. In the midst of the revolutionary generation he must have seemed quaint and out of place, a venerable old man whose time had passed. On October 28, while walking down a Williamsburg street, he collapsed and was taken to the home of a friend, where he died of "apoplexy" just a few hours later.

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1 Jefferson is quoted in Rossiter, pp. 52-53.

The Family of Richard Bland: Sixth Generation

Richard Bland had three wives: Anne Pothyress, whom he married on March 21, 1729/1730. Anne Pothyress was born December 13, 1712, and died on April 9, 1758. Following her death, Richard married Martha Macon Massie, and following her, Elizabeth Blair Bolling. The dates of these later marriages are uncertain, but occurred between 1758-1775. (Elizabeth Blair Bolling Bland died April 28, 1775.) All of Richard Bland's twelve children, born between 1730-1754, were by his first wife, Anne Pothyress, and they belong to the seventh generation.[1]

The first child, and first son of Richard Bland and Anne Pothyress, was Richard. Richard was born at Jordans on February 20, 1730/1731. He died in 1766. Richard served in the Virginia House of Burgesses from 1761-1765, alongside his father, as representative from Prince George County. On October 8, 1761, Richard Bland (seventh generation) married Mary Bolling, who was born on July 16, 1744, and died sometime in 1775. Richard Bland and Mary Bolling (seventh generation) had two sons and two daughters. The first son, also named Richard (eighth generation) was born on July 23, 1762, and died March 26, 1806. Richard Bland (eighth generation) married Susannah Pothyress about 1787. Susannah was from the same family as her grandmother, Anne Pothyress (1712-1758). Richard Bland and Susannah Pothyress (eighth generation)

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[1] Richard Bland (sixth generation) has genealogically one of the most well cultivated families. What follows is taken primarily from notes provided by Mr. Leslie Dawson, of New York City, and is based upon the following Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Lineage Books: Volume 1/pp. 53, 155; 2/231, 267; 10/148; 14/310; 16/140; 32/353; 33/270; 36/13, 15, 235, 253; 37/210; 38/199; 39/114; 40/288; 51/260; 54/75; 55/450; 56/445; 60/33; 62/143; 65/295; 77/282; 85/372; 86/350; 102/18, 93, 265; 117/153; 125/44; 129/267.

had three sons (ninth generation), Richard, John and Theodorick, and two daughters, Sarah and Mary. Sarah married Thomas Bott, and Mary married Elgin Russell. Among the sons, it is unknown whether Richard married. Theodorick married Mary Harrison and had by her (tenth generation) one son, Theodorick, and four daughters: Susannah Pothyress Bland, who married Edward Temple, and Sally, Anne and Mary. John Bland (ninth generation, 1798-1863) has descendants who have traced his family up to 1900. John married three times. His first wife is unknown, but he had by her, four children (tenth generation), Magdalen, Robert, John Bolling, and William. By his second wife, Rachel Reed (1816-1841), whom he married in 1840, he had Rachel (tenth generation 1841-1864) who married James D. Proctor (1832-1900). John Bland's third wife was Elizabeth Cargill.

The second child, and first daughter of Richard Bland and Anne Pothyress, was Elizabeth Bland, who was born March 17, 1732/1733, and died about 1790. She married Peter Pothyress.[1] Elizabeth Bland and Peter Pothyress had five daughters (eighth generation) including Elizabeth (1759-1806, eighth generation) who married William Mayo (1757-1833), in 1778. Another daughter of Elizabeth Bland and Peter Pothyress was Jane, who married Joseph Mayo (probably a brother of William Mayo). The remaining two daughters of Peter Pothyress and Elizabeth Bland were Agnes, whose dates are unknown and who married Roger Atkinson (1788-1864). Mary Pothyress, whose dates also are unknown, married John Batte.

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[1] By now it must be clear that the Bland and Pothyress families must have shared many experiences.

The third child, and second daughter of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Anne, who was born on August 15, 1735. The dates of her death are unknown, but she married John Pryor, by whom she had (eighth generation) a son Luke, who married Anne Batte Lane (1790-).

The fourth child, and second son of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Peter (seventh generation) who was born February 2, 1736/1737, and died February 16, 1781. Peter married Judith Booker by whom he had no known children, and Rebecca Spiceley, by whom he had two sons, Peter and Edward (eighth generation).

Peter Bland (eighth generation) has no recorded dates. He married Martha Nash and by her had a son, Richard Bland (ninth generation), who married Henrietta Williams.

Edward Bland (eighth generation) lived from 1767-1831. In 1808, he married Rebecca Jones (1791-1841) and by her had (ninth generation): Judith Maria Bland (1810-1856), who married Henry Warsham (1801-1873); Emma Bland (1811-1867), who married George Harrison in 1828; William Richard Bland (1818-1878), who married Matilda Eppes in 1840 and had by her (tenth generation), Edward Bland (1851-1901), who married Nannie Cooke. This is one of the few instances in which the Bland name survived to 1900 through the James River family.

The fifth and sixth children of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, were John, who was born October 19, 1739, and Mary, who was born February 15, 1740/1741. Both died in their infancy.

The seventh child, and fourth son of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was William Bland (seventh generation). He was born on December 26, 1742. Between 1758-1763, William attended

William and Mary College, and he was ordained and licensed as a minister on June 24, 1767. (One wonders what he thought of his father's role in the Two-Penny Act affair.) He served as minister of the James City parish in James City County from his ordination until about 1777.

William was one of thirteen ministers who signed an association channeled through the House of Burgesses on May 27, 1774, to protest the closing of the port of Boston, following the Boston Tea Party of December 1773. Various information indicates he was a chaplain in the Virginia militia during the Revolutionary War. After the revolution, he represented Warwick County Parish and Elizabeth City County Parish in Diocesan conventions held in 1785-1786. He appears to have run upon hard times as the 1780's ended, for he laid claim to being Rector of St. Paul's Church in Norfolk, but was denied by the Diocesan convention in 1790. After that, he became an alcoholic and was defrocked from the Virginia ministry in 1794.[1] The date of his death is uncertain.

William married Elizabeth Yates, the daughter of a minister. One should note that William's uncle, Theodorick Bland (sixth generation, 1719-1784) also married an Elizabeth Yates in his later life. William's wife Elizabeth was descended, as it turns out, from Pocohontas, that wily old squaw, whose blood appears to have coursed through the loins of about half of 18th century Virginia.

William Bland and Elizabeth Yates had a daughter, Nancy or Anne (eighth generation); married Richard Pryor and had by him seven children (ninth generation).

The eighth child, and fifth son of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Theodorick (seventh generation). He was born September 28, 1744, and died in 1754.

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1 VMHB, Vol. 41 (1933), pp. 124-125.

The ninth child, and sixth son of Richard Bland and Anne Pothyress, was Edward Bland (seventh generation), who was born December 16, 1746. His date of death is unknown. Edward married Elizabeth Cooke and by her had a daughter and son (eighth generation). The daughter Louise, married Robert Harrison. The son, John Bland, married first Mary Parkinson and had by her (ninth generation) a daughter Imogen. Second, John Bland married a Miss Jones and had by her (ninth generation) John Archer Bland, and Cornelia Bland, who married a Mr. Knight.

The tenth child, and fourth daughter of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Sarah or Sally Bland (seventh generation). Sally was born September 19, 1750, and she died about 1807. About 1772, she married Robert Goode by whom she had two sons (eighth generation).

The eleventh child, and fifth daughter of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Susan, who was born February 20, 1752, and died young. The twelfth child, and sixth daughter, of Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress, was Lucy (seventh generation). She was born September 22, 1754, and on May 31, 1780, married Jacob Rubsamen.

This concludes the known lines of descent from Richard Bland (sixth generation) and Anne Pothyress. Richard Bland had a younger brother, Theodorick, who in the course of his family life had children and grandchildren who were important to Virginia. If not empowered of the wealth and logical precision of Richard Bland, they were much more colorful.

The Family of Theodorick Bland of Cawsons: Sixth Generation

The last child of Richard Bland (fifth generation) and his wife, Elizabeth Randolph, was Theodorick Bland, generally known as of Cawsons. Theodorick was born on December 2, 1719. Tragically, his mother died a little more than a month later on January 22 or 30, 1719-1720, from complications in Theodorick's birth. His father, Richard, died just a few months later on April 6, 1720. He was raised apparently in the care of his maternal relatives, the Randolphs. There is no way of knowing whether his childhood was particularly happy. A letter from his sister Elizabeth intimates that (at least, she believes, or Theodorick has told her) he was in rather pitiful straits:

> I am very sorry we should be deprived of your company for want of cloaths & wish it ware in my power to give you some & I am sure if Mr. Beverly had money to command, you would not want them...[1]

Campbell says of him that he was a plain, practical man, with slender advantages of education, but a man of good fortune and character. Nothing is known of his education, but it is illogical that he should have not had advantages equal to his older brother Richard. Governor Faquier in 1758 appointed Theodorick as colonel of the Prince George County Militia, and he was also clerk of the county and in several terms, a member of the Burgesses from the county.[2]

Theodorick's moral values seem to be of a piece with those of the times, as witnessed by the strictures he placed on a young man hired in 1760 to be his assistant in the county clerk's office. Among the promises to which the young man was enjoined:

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1 VMHB, Vol. 23 (1915), pp. 361-362. The letter is undated, probably sometime in early to mid-1730's.

2 Campbell I, pp. xiv-xv.

> To any at cards, Dice or at any other Unlawfull games he shall not play, Taverns or Tippling houses he shall not frequent, Fornication he shall not committ, matery-mony he shall not contract * * * but in all things as a Good and Faithfull apprentice shall and will Demean and behave himself towards his said master.[1]

The major part of Theodorick's bequest from his father appears to have been the land that came to be called Cawsons. As indicated previously, it probably was purchased by Theodorick's father in 1691. Cawsons was located south of the James, as it joins the Appomatox River. It was just north of Jordans, homeplace of Theodorick's father. Cawsons must have been very spacious and luxuriant, for it was said to have been a place of some thirty rooms and set off by grounds "adorned by shrubbery, serpentine walks and other artifical embellish-ments."[2] The place was accidentally destroyed by fire in 1781.[3] One of the casualties of the fire was the portrait of Richard Bland (sixth generation, 1710-1776). Supposedly, Cawsons was burned about April 1781. A large company of guests were gathered at a party when a servant informed Theodorick that his house was on fire. With "great coolness and composure," Theodorick told the servant to put the fire out, and returning to his guests, told them to continue with the party. Soon, however, the fire raged out of control and the house was lost.

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1 VMHB, Vol. 4 (1896-1897), p. 280.

2 Campbell I, VIII, and William Cabell Bruce, John Randolph of Roanoke: 1773-1833 (1922), Vol. 1, p. 3.

3 Campbell I, pp. 36-37.

During his lifetime, Theodorick married twice. His first wife, and mother of all his children, was Frances Bolling, the daughter of Drury Bolling, who was born in 1724, and died in 1774.[1] He married Frances in 1739.[2] Frances was the mother of all of Theodorick's children. By 1777, Theodorick was rummaging around for another wife, but without the most unqualified approbation of his son Theodorick, as witnessed by this observation by his son-in-law, John Bannister:

> You were certainly right in ... your sentiments upon the old gentleman's matrimonial plans, and he was pleased that you did so. I believe, from best information, that he has laid aside all thoughts of that lady, for a very good reason, her having altered her mind.[3]

In other words, "that lady," whoever she was, jilted old Theodorick! But things ended well, for sometime before 1780, Theodorick married Elizabeth Randolph Yates, daughter of Edward Randolph and widow of William Yates. By her he had no children. His will was formulated July 16, 1783, and he died about May 8, 1784. Elizabeth died in the same year.[4]

The children of Theodorick Bland and Frances Bolling were as follows: 1) Elizabeth; 2) Theodorick; 3) Mary; 4) Anna; 5) Jane; and 6) Frances. All these children are seventh generation.

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1 Frances Bolling descended from her grandfather, Robert Bolling, through his second wife, Anne Stith, rather than his first wife, Jane Rolfe. Therefore, alas, no Pocohontas blood flowed through the veins of Frances Bolling.

2 WMQ (I), Vol. 8, p. 99.

3 Campbell, I, pp. 55-59.

4 VMHB, Vol. 9 (1901-1902), pp. 66-67.

TABLE XII

THE FAMILY OF RICHARD BLAND (SIXTH GENERATION) OF JORDANS IN VIRGINIA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C.1639-1687)

(5) Richard Bland (1665-1720) = Elizabeth Randolph (? -1719)

(6) Richard Bland (1710-1776) = Anne Pothyress (1712-1758) in 1729

(7-1)	(7-2)	(7-3)	(7-4)	(7-5)	(7-6)
Richard Bland (1730-1766), married Mary Bolling (1744-1775) in 1761.	Elizabeth Bland (1732-C.1790), married Peter Pothyress about 1758.	Anne Bland (1735-?), married John Pryor.	Peter Bland (1736-1781), married (1) Judith Booker, and (2) Rebecca Spiceley.	John Bland (1739-died in infancy.)	Mary Bland (1740-died in infancy.)

(7-7)	(7-8)	(7-9)	(7-10)	(7-11)	(7-12)
William Bland (1742-died after 1795), married Elizabeth Yates.	Theodorick Bland (1744-1754)	Edward Bland (1746-?), married Elizabeth Cooke.	Sarah (Sally) Bland (1750-1807), married Robert Goode about 1772.	Susan Bland (1752-died young)	Lucy Bland (1754-?), married Jacob Rubsamen in 1780.

TABLE XIII

THE FAMILY OF THEODORICK BLAND OF CAWSONS: FOUR GENERATIONS

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C. 1629-1687)

(5) Richard Bland (1665-1720) = Elizabeth Randolph (? - 1719)

(6) Theodorick Bland (1719-1784) = (1) Frances Bolling (1724-1774); and (2) Elizabeth Randolph Yates *

(7-1)	(7-2)	(7-3)
Theodorick Bland (1740-1790) married Martha Dangerfield about 1765.	Elizabeth Bland (1739-?) married John Bannister (?-1787)	Mary Bland (1745-1765) married William Ruffin about 1762
(7-4)	(7-5)	(7-6)
Anna Bland (1747-?) married Thomas Eaton	Jane Bland (1749-?) married Herbert Harris	Frances Bland (1752-1788) married (1) John Randolph (1742-1775) in 1769; (2) St. George Tucker in 1777. John Randolph and Frances Bland were the parents of Virginia statesman John Randolph "of Roanoke" (eighth generation, 1773-1833)

* There were no children by the marriage of Theodorick Bland and Elizabeth Randolph Yates.

Elizabeth, the first daughter, was born January 4, 1739/1740. She married John Bannister,[1] who is described glowingly by Campbell, and was a frequent correspondent with his brother-in-law, Theodorick Bland, while the latter served as a Colonel in the Revolutionary War. Bannister died in 1787. There is no record of Elizabeth Bland Bannister's death. They had three children, of whom one was named Wilamatha. Campbell indicates that the entire family was extinct by 1840.[2]

The second daughter, Mary, was born August 22, 1745. She married William Ruffin in 1762, and she died in 1765. William Ruffin and Mary Bland had one child (eighth generation), Theodorick Bland Ruffin (born about 1763) who married Susan Murray.[3]

The third daughter, Anna Bland, was born September 5, 1747. She married Thomas Eaton of Roanoke River in North Carolina. Jane Bland, the fourth daughter, was born September 30, 1749, and married Herbert Harris. Two of the children of Theodorick Bland (sixth generation) and Frances Bolling have gained general historical notice. They are the only son, Theodorick Bland (seventh generation) and the last daughter, Frances Bland, who was the mother of John Randolph of Roanoke.[4]

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1 Leslie Dawson, notes citing Torrence Wills and Administrations. Campbell, I, pp. xxvii-xxviii. Cf. p. 150.

2 Recall that John Bannister's first wife was Elizabeth Munford, his second wife's first cousin and child of Anna Bland and Robert Munford. Evidently, Mr. Bannister found the Bland women entirely to his liking.

3 William Ruffin and Mary Bland are the antecedents of one correspondent, Elizabeth Eugenia Blake Gaston, of Columbus, Mississippi. Mrs. Gaston to Charles Bland, October 6, 1980.

4 Ibid.

Theodorick Bland (Seventh Generation): Physician, Soldier and Statesman

The only son of Theodorick Bland (sixth generation) and Frances Bolling was Theodorick (seventh generation), who was born at Cawsons on December 31, 1740, and was baptized May 26, 1742. He died June 1, 1790.[1]

Of all the members of this 18th century family of Blands, he seems to have led the most interesting life, next to his uncle Richard (1710-1776), and probably is the best known. At various times he was a student, poet (a very poor one), a physician, lover, revolutionary warrior and patriot statesman. Of the three Blands who were best known, he strikes the cleanest balance between reason and passion. He falls somewhere between the coldly severe and logical mind of his uncle Richard Bland (1710-1776) and the wildly irrational and emotional statesmanship (the expression almost seems contradictory) of his nephew John Randolph of Roanoke (1773-1833). His life seems to have been principally a positive and joyous experience. He lived in times that for an upper-class Virginian must have been the most exhilarating and he seems to have lived it to the hilt.

Nothing is known of Theodorick's first years. From a letter written to him by his father in 1763, it appears that he went to England in York County about 1753, there to be educated. He was, at any rate, at school in Wakefield between the years 1756-1758. In 1758, a Mr. Clarke, his headmaster at the school, wrote to his father, informing him that Theodorick required "discipline as much as any other young

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1 Information about Theodorick's birth was included in Mrs. Gaston's letter to me. She cited Bristol Parish, Virginia records as her source, and I believe her information is reliable.

Colonel Theodorick Bland
(1740-1790)

Photograph of a Profile by
Charles Balthazar Julien
Saint-Memin. Source: Virginia
State Library

gentleman." Mr. Clarke reported that his composition and Latin were not good, but Theodorick did stand second in his class, and showed evidences of having read Horace and Xenophon.[1]

In 1759, and continuing apparently until about 1763, Theodorick entered medical studies, first at an Infirmary in Liverpool. His father considered sending him to Oxford, but the expense, in addition to the fourteen year matriculation, caused him instead to decide upon Edinburgh, the favorite university for students from Virginia. He entered Edinburgh in 1761. In the same year he finished his thesis, de Coctione Alimentorum in Ventriculo.[2] While in Edinburgh, Theodorick also organized the Virginia Club, restricted to Virginia students and dedicated to the wholehearted pursuit of anatomical studies. Whole-hearted or not, young Theodorick still found time for a brief love affair with a young woman named Annie Miller, which upset his father perhaps beyond the proportions it deserved. Subsequently, Theodorick renounced the affair; Miss Miller remained his amiable friend.[3]

After graduating from Edinburgh, Theodorick spent another year in Germany and in Paris to, as he put it to his father, complete "that education on which my dear father has spared nothing that I could wish for."[4] He wound up his sojourn in Europe in 1764 or 1765 and returned home to Virginia, where he set up a medical practice and married Martha Dangerfield, a young lady from Stafford County.

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1 Blanton, p. 230.

2 Blanton, pp. 87, 91.

3 Campbell I, xvii-xviii, pp. 20-24. Blanton, p. 230.

4 Campbell I, p. 24.

These middle years of his life, newly wed, a new physician, were not free of turmoil. Theodorick evidently was not very strong physically. He described himself as "weak and infirm from my cradle," yet he wanted to lead the quiet life of a country farmer and give up the practice of medicine. He had apparently studied medicine to please his parents, and because medicine provided him with some "amusements for the mind." But by 1771, after seven years of practice, Theodorick was fed up with the ungrateful patients and measly pay he was able to eke out from his practice. (How far medicine had gone since John Coggan's time!) His plan to give up medicine met with the studied disapproval of his parents, to which Theodorick wrote, "would it then please my parents more to see me a lifeless carcass in one or two years?"[1] In 1771 then, the same man who upon his return to Virginia had entered upon the medical profession with a ringing recommendation for reform of medical practice in Virginia, dissolved his practice in Petersburg with a Dr. Stark and retired, presumably, to his farm.

The silence in his life that marks the next several years may attest to a brief interlude of happiness and peace. But not for long. For his return to Virginia coincided more or less with the end of the Seven Years' War and the heightening of tensions between the North American Colonies and the British Empire. Bland's consciousness appears to have been raised, at least in writing, in a letter to Bristol, England in December 1774, in which he writes, "...political disputes between these colonies and the mother country...threaten us with a deprivation of our liberties and every thing that is dear to us."[2] In 1775, he

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1 Theodorick Bland's disenchantment with medical practice is outlined in a letter to his parents dated January 12, 1771. Campbell I, pp. 30-32.

2 Campbell, XXI.

joined a raiding party against the governor's palace at Williamsburg, at which 230 rifles and 300 swords were captured. He picked up the threads of some youthful poetic effusions by celebrating the battle of Lexington, a piece which Campbell calls "rather distinguished for its patriotism than for its poetic merit."[1] Also in 1775, Theodorick wrote a series of angry tirades against the then-Governor of Virginia, the Earl of Dunmore. In these essays, he assails Dunmore both privately and politically, not unlike his Uncle Richard's attack upon the Virginia clergy and Bishop of London, seeing in him the most designing of men with a soul rotted by corruption, vice and greed.

But Theodorick apparently took no sustained delight in these verbal sallies, and on June 13, 1776, as the political conflict veered into military combat, he organized, at his own expense, the First Continental Dragoons (mounted horsemen). He was appointed a colonel, and served as commander of the Dragoons until he was relieved of duty in March 1780.[2]

Theodorick Bland, let us admit, was not one of the great soldiers of the Revolutionary War. Fortunately, the movements of his troops came under the sharp eye of General Washington, who kept him straight, and with that military man's keen appreciation for ineptness, Bland managed to be in some fairly important places during the war.

In July 1776, while the American patriots were gathered to declare independence, General William Howe landed unopposed at Staten Island with several thousand troops. Presently, his brother, Admiral Lord

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1 Campbell, XXI-XXIII; Blanton, p. 232.

2 Campbell I, XXV, and II, pp. 36-39. Blanton, p. 232.

Howe, arrived with a battle fleet. During that long summer of 1776, British troops poured into the colony by the thousands. England had one of the most formidable military forces in the world, and the right commander at its helm might have used it to mince the upstart Americans. Fortunately for the fate of our fledgling nation, however, the Howe brothers were just the ones to challenge George Washington's supremacy in military incompetence.[1] At the first major battle near Long Island in August 1776, Washington's large but unskilled forces were completely routed and were spared from destruction only by Howe's cautious and methodical refusal to push his adversaries. But Washington, never being one to take no for an answer, could muster no forceful resistance, and during the long fall and early winter was driven further southward, across the Delaware River. Having gotten Washington in full flight, Howe paused for the winter.

As every school boy and girl knows (at least until recently anyway), Washington seized his opportunity by stealthily crossing the Delaware River on Christmas night 1776, and his troops fell upon one thousand unsuspecting Hessian mercenaries under British command at Trenton, thus sending a strong message to Howe that it wasn't going to be easy for him.

During the early months of 1777, General Howe and his subordinate, General Burgoyne, masterfully executed a sweep down from Canada through the Hudson Valley region, hoping to cut off New England from the rest of the rebellious colonies. Alas, the British already held New York,

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[1] There was of course more to George Washington than his military prowess. Politically, he had the Midas touch and seems to have invented the word "charisma." He guided the presidency through its most critical precedent-setting period. After his presidency, the mold was thrown away. None of his successors have come close to him.

and New England had no substantial land communication with the colonies to her south where incidentally most of the American main forces were massed. Thus, Howe's move was a masterwork of irrelevance. Recovering himself, he changed directions and marched his troops toward Philadelphia. Washington tried to block his movement but already confused by the ineptness of Howe's actions, and overwhelmed by the brute force of the British army, had to fall back again. Howe swept into Philadelphia. Another act of irrelevance, since most Americans lived out in the vast and diffuse hinterlands and not in the coastal cities. So it went until the summer, when Burgoyne's and Washington's forces engaged in the Hudson Valley for an extended and fateful battle. Our hero, Theodorick Bland, and his Dragoons were present there and later at the battle of Brandywine, near Philadelphia, with a primary task of reconnaissance. Theodorick spotted one of Howe's advance guards about three hours before the two forces engaged at Brandywine, and quickly relayed information to Washington that Howe's columns were separated. In fact, the columns were intact and preparing a classic hammer and anvil sweep. Washington quickly changed his plans and avoided having his men entrapped, a near brush with fate that prompted General Henry Lee to comment that "Bland was noble, sensible, honorable and amiable, but never intended for the department of military intelligence."[1] In spite of this, Washington persevered with Theodorick Bland, perhaps mindful of the support he had received in the 1750's from Theodorick's uncle Richard. On October 25, 1777, Washington severely reprimanded Theodorick Bland for his failure to control pillaging and plunder by his troops, and told him that his, Washington's, generous latitude to

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1 Campbell, I, pp. xxvii-xxviii.

Bland's Dragoons had been "perverted into a mere plundering scheme."[1] Washington cancelled all leaves in Bland's unit, and ordered that Bland's troops not interfere in any way with horses or other private property. This evidently set Bland to brooding about how much Washington did or did not appreciate his services, for on November 8, Washington refused Theodorick's request to resign his commission.[2]

These exchanges between Washington and Bland occurred during the cleanup phase of a military action that had led to Burgoyne's dramatic surrender at Saratoga on October 17, 1777, an action that could have ended the war if Lord North back in England had his way.

But good King George insisted that the contest be pressed on, as it were, more or less in stalemate for three more years. The American victory at Saratoga, however, came as incredibly good news to Benjamin Franklin, then in Paris trying desperately to gain an alliance with France. Quickly (for those days of slow communication), France in February 1778 signed treaties of Amity and Commerce and of Alliance with America, offering to fight with the Americans to maintain "the liberty, sovereignty and independence, absolute and unlimited, of the United States;" further, not to make a separate peace or lay down arms until the independence of the United States was assured. Ultimate American victory was assured from that point onward.[3]

After Saratoga, Howe, under safe conduct from the American forces, was allowed to return to England, where he resigned. The army he left

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1 Campbell, I, pp. 67-68.

2 Ibid.

3 A fact we know only in hindsight. To contemporaries. the continued presence of large-scale British military forces was terrible and frightening, and caused great suffering, with no assurance of the ultimate outcome.

behind, called convention troops, were removed to Boston and detained for reasons of state for about a year. Washington bowed to pressure from the Congress to remove them to the south to Charlottesville, Virginia, and on November 5, 1778, he appointed Colonel Theodorick Bland to superintend the forced march of these British prisoners through Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Maryland and to Charlottesville. He also directed Bland to take command of the convention troops at Charlottesville.

According to Campbell, Bland conducted this responsibility well, and proved a good and sensitive diplomat in his dealings with the captured British command, particularly with Major General Phillips, a subordinate of Burgoyne's. Letters between Phillips and Bland indicate a very correct and tactful conduct between the two men, with each honoring the integrity and position of the other. The relationship bore a rather perverse reward for Theodorick Bland!

Phillips left Charlottesville in September 1779, just before Bland finally insisted that Washington relieve him. Washington acceded to Theodorick's request and he was notified of his relief in November. He was actually relieved of his command in March 1780. Theodorick retired to his plantation, called Farmingdell, while Phillips, after going to New York, joined up with General Henry Clinton, the British Commander who replaced Howe.[1] Clinton had orders to shift the British offensive to the south. His forces gathered in Georgia and swept upward through the south. After recapturing Georgia and Charleston, South Carolina, Clinton left the British southern forces in command of Cornwallis, and himself went north. Cornwallis at first moved against

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1 For a brief statement about Phillips, see Campbell II, p. 124.

slight resistance and defeated the Americans at Camden, South Carolina. But he began to meet intensely hostile opposition in North Carolina. Washington, in December 1780, sent a brilliant subordinate, General Nathaniel Greene, to attack Cornwallis' forces. Greene used hit and run tactics to slow Cornwallis down, but rather than retreat Cornwallis pressed into Virginia in the winter and spring of 1781. It was a fatal move for British forces, for Greene cut the Cornwallis army in half and tied it down in multiple local skirmishes, while Washington, with the aid of the French, closed in on Yorktown to the north. Cornwallis' badly severed army was forced to surrender on October 17, 1781.

Although political negotiations continued until 1783, the war ended effectively with Cornwallis' surrender. But to return to Virginia in the winter months of 1781, Cornwallis had sent General Phillips in a devastating sweep up the James River to Petersburg. Phillips, in an act of gallantry and remembrance for the man who had treated him so well while he was in captivity, ordered that the property of Colonel Theodorick Bland be spared. Phillips did not reckon with the fact that his troops would find the entire southern Virginia countryside crawling with Theodorick Blands. Doing the best they could under the circumstances, the British soldiers passed by Cawsons, home of Theodorick's father, Colonel Theodorick Bland, but devastated Farmingdell, the home of Colonel Theodorick Bland, object of Phillips' friendly gesture. They "broke his furniture to pieces, pounded up his chinaware, destroyed his crops and livestock, and carried off his negroes."[1] (Actually, a

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[1] Bruce, Life of Randolph, II, p. 733. Phillips himself died at Petersburg on May 13, 1781 of a sickness but also under heavy fire from Lafayette.

letter to Theodorick, Jr. from his father makes it pretty clear that the slaves went off with the British pretty much of their own volition.)

One Thomas Anburey, who was a British officer of the imprisoned convention troops, described the experience in Charlottesville. He spoke harshly of the "misery and confusion" in the camp. He ridiculed Bland's Dragoons, portraying them as ridiculously and poorly clad troops, with an odd assortment of clothing from their heads to their necks, "but all have fine dragoon caps, and long swords slung around them ... but gadamercy pistols ... but they are tolerably mounted and that is the only thing you can advance in their favor"[1] (notwithstanding which, note who had been captured by whom):

> The colonel is so fond of his dragoons that he reviews and manoeuvres them every morning, and whenever he rides out, has two drawn swords before and two behind. It is really laughable to see him thus attended with his ragged regiment, which looks, to borrow Shakespeare's idea, as if the gibbets had been robbed to make it up.[2]

Of Theodorick Bland, Anburey gives this burlesque portrait:

> The colonel himself ... has all the grave deportment as if he were going to a consultation ... Having some business with Colonel Bland ... I went to his house just as he had mounted his horse, but in justice to him, I must say, he shows to the British officers, dismounted and invited me in, and after communicating my business, upon my taking leave of him, notwithstanding his politeness and attention, I could not help smiling at the pomposity and the great importance he assumes to make himself appear consequential; for to convince us that he was conversant with the French language, having mounted his horse without his sword, he called to a negro ... to bring it to him, which the fellow did without the scabbard. ... the colonel, in great anger said to him, Donney moi, donney moi, and after great hesitation, donney moi, mon scabbard.[3]

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1 Campbell, II, p. 122.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid., pp. 123-124.

For his military services, Theodorick was paid off handsomely in land. Notes supplied me by Mr. Leslie Dawson indicate that Theodorick was awarded 6,666 acres of land in the Kentucky Territory in 1784, and 6,983 acres in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1785.[1] What happened to these lands after Theodorick's death is uncertain.

Theodorick Bland spent the last ten years of his life in politics. In 1780, he was appointed by the Virginia assembly to be a delegate in Congress and continued in the post for three years, his term being limited by the Articles of Confederation. In 1785, Governor Henry appointed him lieutenant of Prince George County. Subsequently, he was a member of the Virginia Convention that convened to consider the Federal Constitution. In this role, he was on the losing side, joining those who voted against it. After its ratification, however, he was elected to represent Virginia at the first Congress and while serving in that capacity, he died in New York on June 1, 1790.

Campbell described Theodorick Bland as tall, "corpulent in his latter days," and handsome. The Marquis of Chastellux, in his travel memoirs, described Bland in 1781 as "a tall, handsome man, who has been in the West Indies, where he acquired French. He is said to be a good soldier, but at present serves his country, and serves it well, in Congress."[2]

Theodorick's marriage to Martha Dangerfield, whom he called affectionately "Patsy," appears to have been a happy one. Campbell's collection of letters include many to "My dearest Patsy," which are filled with news of his experiences in the war, concern for her health,

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1 Dawson notes, citing for 1784, NSGQ, Vol. 16, p. 61, and Wilson, Sons of the Revolution in Kentucky (1913). For 1785, Kentucky Historica Society Index of Great Men.

2 Campbell, XXX-XXXI.

expressions of loneliness without her, and gently upbraiding her for not writing more often. Martha was appointed sole executrix of Theodorick's will in 1790 and he left all his property to "my wife Martha and her heirs forever," aside for a specific bequest of land "on which ... it is my desire the publick may erect a college for the education of youth within 15 years of my decease,"[1] a scheme that was never carried out,[2] and various grants to nephews, in-laws and friends. Apparently, Theodorick had no children. Martha remarried in 1792 to a Nathan Blodgett, but in doing so, secured expressly in the marriage agreement that she would retain the same unlimited and uncontrolled power over the estate Theodorick left her.[3] Blodgett died about 1795, and Martha kept a journal of her life during the years until her marriage[4] to one Corran, a sea captain, about 1798 or 1799. Corran took her to France and she died there in 1804.

Frances Bland (Seventh Generation) and Her Son, John Randolph of Roanoke (Eighth Generation)

The last child, and fifth daughter of Theodorick Bland of Cawsons (sixth generation) and Frances Bolling, was Frances Bland, who was born on September 24, 1752. On March 9, 1769, she married John Randolph, the youngest son of Richard Randolph of Curles, who was himself a brother of Frances Bland's grandmother, Elizabeth Randolph, who married

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1 VMHB, Vol. 3 (1895-1896), p. 315.

2 VMHB, Vol. 4 (1896-1897), p. 280.

3 VMHB, Vol. 4 (1896-1897), p. 280. Cf. Julia Cherry Spruill, Women's Life and Work in the Southern Colonies (1938), p. 366. On Martha's marriage to Nathan Blodgett, see WMQ (I), Vol. 9, p. 189, and WMQ (I), Vol. 26, p. 197.

4 Ibid. Cf. Campbell I, p. 74.

Richard Bland of Jordan's (1665-1720). John Randolph was born June 29, 1742, and died at his plantation, Matoax, on October 28, 1775, after Frances bore him three sons.

Following the death of John Randolph, Frances Bland Randolph married St. George Tucker on September 22, 1777.[1]

A contemporary described Frances Bland thus: "The world thought her son spoke as no man ever spake, but she could charm a bird out of a tree by the music of her tongue."[2] She had a peculiarly strong maternal influence upon her last son and namesake of John Randolph, teaching him, in the absence of his dead father, the credo of the Virginia aristocracy, loving him intensely and being loved in return with as much intensity by her son.[3]

By John Randolph, Frances had three sons, who were eighth generation. The first was Richard, who was born on March 9, 1770, and died June 14, 1796. On December 31, 1789, Richard married his cousin, Judith Randolph, daughter of Thomas Mann Randolph of Tuckahoe. Richard and Judith Randolph had two sons, St. George and Tudor, both of whom died in their youth and left no issue. The second child of

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1 By her second marriage to St. George Tucker, Frances Bland had the following children: Anne Frances Bland Tucker (1778-1813); Henry St. George Tucker (1780-1848); Theodorick Tudor Tucker (1782-1795); Nathaniel Beverly Tucker (1784-1851); Henrietta Elizabeth (1787-1796). Their descendants are traced through several generations in Slaughter, pp. 159-163.

2 Benjamin Watkins Leigh, quoted in Robert Dawidoff, The Education of John Randolph (1979), p. 80; hereafter, in notes referred to as Dawidoff.

3 For Randolph's relationship with his mother, see Dawidoff, pp. 80-83, and William Cabell Bruce, John Randolph of Roanoke, pp. 21-48 passim. Of the two biographies, Dawidoff's is a pale copy of Bruce's earlier work.

John Randolph and Frances Bland was Theodorick, who was born on January 22, 1771 and died unmarried on February 14, 1792. The final son, and the most famous, was John Randolph, later styled "of Roanoke," who was born June 3, 1773 and died in Philadelphia on May 24, 1833.

Of these children of John Randolph and Frances Bland, the most famous was John Randolph (eighth generation) "of Roanoke." With all of his passions and eccentricities, he is as good a study of the Virginia gentlemen at the opening of the 19th century as William Byrd, the neighbor of his great grandfather Richard Bland was for the early 18th century.

All of his biographers agree that he was very close to his mother, and that she taught him the way of life for a gentleman in Virginia, but taught him in such a way that he adopted the creed with a literalness that hampered him throughout his life. The way his biographer Dawidoff puts it is that because of his mother's smothering presence, Randolph "never developed the strategies to discount the meaning of what adults told him."[1] In other words, Randolph set impossibly high and unrealistic ideals for himself and others, and refused to tolerate the subtle shades and variances from the written creed of social and more importantly, political behavior.

Another Virginian, Edgar Allen Poe, had a similar maternal experience, though he was younger when his mother died. Poe's short fiction, particularly that which deals with women (Morella, Berenice, Ligea, House of Usher, etc.) poses an impossibly high and ethereal idealism upon the subjects, which denies them any fleshly experience, and forces them into the most macabre struggles in which death is made beautiful

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1 Dawidoff, p. 82.

and possessing. Yet to make Poe's artistic expression the product of his mother's love or overlove is as simplistic and absurd as is Dawidoff's argument about Randolph. But the Randolph-Poe analogy draws together again when one notes that both, though undoubtedly for different reasons, were not altogether sexually functional. In respect to Randolph, the years 1788-1796 were critical in this respect: On January 18, 1788, when John was fifteen, Frances Bland Randolph Tucker died, leaving her son in the care of her second husband, with whom John had at first a warm relationship that was abrogated by a split in 1810.

Following his mother's death, his entire family was his brothers, but in 1792, Theodorick, who had become a deep disappointment to John, died, the victim of corrupting influences in the parlance of the times, "dissipation and self-indulgence" (in other words, he lived hard, womanizing, drinking, gambling, doing all the things that made life worthwhile for the young Virginia gentry, but he overdid it and burned himself out). To Randolph, Theodorick had been consumed by indulgences in all the vices their mother had cautioned absolutely against. John's father, had he lived, might have told him on the sly to sample the underside of life just a bit, as his brother had. Theodorick's death, however, in John's view was a dire warning about the wages of sin.

His next best hope lay in the example of his oldest brother Richard who, by the time of Theodorick's death, had been married for three years to a cousin, Judith Randolph, and now had two children. Richard was, and remained a hero to his younger brother. In the year 1792, John joined Richard's household at his plantation, named with a strange aptness, "Bizarre." Shortly, Richard was publicly disgraced in

what Dawidoff calls "a grotesque scandal of incest and infanticide," which had a traumatic effect upon John Randolph that will be discussed presently.[1]

Dawidoff's claim is an exaggeration. How anyone can claim incest amid such a staggering array of cousin marriages as this chapter attests is beyond me. Infanticide, yes!

Richard's wife, Judith, had a sister, Anne Cary Randolph, who had lived at Bizarre in 1792. Evidently, with Judith's knowledge, Anne became Richard's lover in an explicit triangle. On October 1, 1792, Richard and Judith Randolph and Anne Cary Randolph, and a man whom Bruce calls "one of Nancy's* lovers," arrived at a place called Glenlyvar, seat of one Randolph Harrison. Soon after dinner, Nancy, Richard and Judith went to bed in the same set of rooms (including a smaller room off the larger one, which led to a hallway). During the night, Mrs. Harrison responded to screams from the guest bedroom, and discovered in the smaller quarters, Nancy screaming from the pain of ingesting laudanum, while Richard stood by her bed, alongside a fifteen year old slave girl and a young girl of about seven named Virginia. To make a very long and involved story short, Nancy had aborted Richard's baby (hence Dawidoff's claim of incest and infanticide).

A public trial ensued in 1793. Richard was acquitted by a spectacular set of lawyers, including Alexander Campbell, Patrick Henry and John Marshall, who made deft use of severely restricted admissible testimony. But his good name was disgraced and his family was stained. Richard died a broken man in 1796. John was so stunned by the incident that he never recovered from the shock. One result may have been an

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1 Cf. Dawidoff and Bruce I, pp. 106-123, and II, pp. 272-295.

* A nickname for Anne Cary Randolph.

acute physical debility suffered at about the same time, a kind of disease that left him with a beardless chin and shrill high-pitched voice, and the suspicion of historians that he may have been left sterile.

As a result, Randolph never married although an exchange of letters between him and Anne Cary Randolph Morrison in 1814, in which all the dirt about his brother Richard's disgrace with her was dredged up, leaves a hint that he had at least a brief and tormented affair with Anne, sometime after his brother's death.[1] At any rate, the combination of this demasculinization process, his mother's investment of high literalism in him, and his inability to control his passion and hatred for Anne Cary Randolph Morrison and his lack of progeny, set the stage for a public career every bit as strange as his personal life.

He was elected to the House of Representatives in 1799 and promptly made his eccentricities a trademark. He was accustomed, so it is said, to appear at sessions of Congress, whip in hand, pistols belted to his waist, and leading an old bitch dog by a leash, prompting one of his adversaries to call for his expulsion on account of his having admitted a female to the house floor. Notwithstanding these behavioral quirks, he made a rapid rise in politics and after Thomas Jefferson's election in 1800, became leader of the House Republicans. His sympathy's however, increasingly lay with a splinter group called the Quids, or old Republicans. The Quids were reactionaries who held dogmatically to a

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[1] These letters are quoted in full in Bruce II, pp. 272-295. Bruce also supports Randolph's continued virility, while not denying he was sterile, by documenting a long romance with one Maria Ward.

set of principles which they claimed were the political legacy of the federal constitution. They were the political right of the Jefferson-Madison center Republicans. Jefferson, one of the ablest politicians this nation has had, cast his cold and methodical eye over the antics of John Randolph with increasing disapprobation. Searching for a way to discredit him, in 1804 the master found a way to kill two birds with one stone: Throughout his administration, Jefferson had chafed at the political opposition of the judiciary, which was dominated by Federalist judges, the archetype of whom was Supreme Court Justice Samuel Chase, a New England arch-Federalist. In the summer of 1803, Randolph began advocating the impeachment of Judge Chase. Jefferson urged, and ultimately persuaded Randolph to take on the role of prosecutor in the impeachment effort. As Jefferson calculated, Randolph's attack was principally an emotional one that was legally naive, and Justice Chase and his lawyers cut him to shreds. Jefferson had his two birds. Chase, though he continued on the Supreme Court until he died in 1811, kept himself out of politics after the trial. Politically, Randolph was ruined. He drifted away from Jefferson and Madison, and although he served in the House almost constantly until 1829, never regained his prominence and influence.[1] His star rose briefly in 1820 when he fiercely opposed the Missouri Compromises. Henry Clay said of his role in the Missouri conflict: "His acts came near to shaking this union to the center and desolating this fair land." In 1825, when he got into an unseemly quarrel with Clay, whom he accused of being the chief culprit in throwing the presidential election from Andrew Jackson

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[1] For a knowledgeable discussion of the politics of the Chase impeachment, see Richard Ellis, The Jeffersonian Crisis (1971), pp. 76-107.

to John Quincy Adams. His comment about Clay and Adams was brilliant, cutting and effective:

> I was defeated, horse, foot and dragoons-cut up, and clean broke down by the coalition of Bilfil and Black George-and by the combination unheard of until then, of the puritan with the black leg.[1]

Henry Clay felt a long nourished love for John Quincy Adams that was both personal and professional. Bilfil-Puritan: That was Adams. Black George-Blackleg: that was, by God, Clay himself!

Clay quickly challenged Randolph to a duel, which was resolved by one man firing in the air, the other at the ground, and shaking hands. At the end of his congressional career, Andrew Jackson sent Randolph on a special mission to Russia. When he returned to America, he came out against Jackson in the nullification controversy that involved the critical question of federal versus state sovereignty.

It is interesting that in the face of the fear and paranoia that swept through the slaveholding South following the Nat Turner Rebellion at Southhampton, Virginia in August 1831, John Randolph, upon his death in 1833, although adamantly opposed to outside interference with slavery, manumitted all his slaves.

The James River Blands: A Eulogy

This chapter concludes discussion about the James River Blands who were descended from the London Skinner, Adam Bland (second generation) and his wife Joan Atkyns, through their son John Bland (third generation) and his wife Susan Deblere. The process by which a family in London

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[1] Randolph died thinking Clay was a rogue. It is said that contrary to Virginia custom, Randolph was buried facing west, so he would keep an eye on Clay.

became interested in the opportunities in the new world and began to settle there, is most intriguing. It is clear from discussions in Chapters III and IV that John Bland, the Grocer, and his son John regarded Virginia as no more than a part of their commercial business and had no intrinsic desire to settle there. Undoubtedly, John Bland (fourth generation), had he been able to do so, would have withdrawn all of his wealth from Virginia after his son Giles was hanged following Bacon's Rebellion. It is quite likely that the James River family persisted in Virginia for the most circumstantial reason: that Anna Bennett Bland Codd hung on fiercely to the property that had been bequeathed to her upon the death of her first husband. Also, she died just as two of her sons were reaching adulthood. One wonders what would have happened, for example, if Anna had died, say, in 1678 or 1679 when her sons were minors and soon after Sarah Greene came to Virginia to try and reclaim the lands. A further historical coincidence was the timing of the death of Mary Swann, Richard Bland's first wife. Had she not died in 1700, Richard might not have had the opportunity to marry Elizabeth Randolph. Such "what if" speculations could go on endlessly.

The point is that the family known as the James River Blands did flourish and became one of the most prominent Virginia families of the 18th century. Yet, according to historical evidence available, by the

time of John Randolph of Roanoke's death in 1833, the once prolific family had dwindled, and by 1900, very few descendants of this family, bearing the surname Bland, survived.[1]

Families vanish quietly. At some time the last member dies, property is sold, letters and portraits are discarded, and gradually memories fade. John Randolph of Roanoke, recalling a visit he made to the old Cawsons home in 1814, spoke of the sting of nostalgia he felt for a concretely felt and remembered life that was past for him:

> I made a little excursion last week, to the seat of my ancestors in the maternal line at the confluence of the James and Appomatox Rivers. The sight of that noble sheet of water in front of the house seemed to revive me. I was tossed in a boat for three miles and sprinkled with the spray that broke over her. The scenes of my early youth were renewed...the sight of the broad bay, formed by the junction of the two rivers, gave a new impulse to my being. But when the boat struck the beach, all was sad and desolate. The fires of ancient hospitality were long since extinguished, and the hearth stone cold. Here was my mother given in marriage and here was I born. Once the seat of plenty and cheerfulness...now mute and deserted...[2]

"Desolate," "mute," these are the words that eulogize the vibrant and passionate family of Blands that once upon a time settled and lived along the James River in Virginia.

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1 Although many people, particularly members of the DAR, trace their antecedents to the James River family, all that I have seen are maternal lines of descent.

2 Bruce, Vol. I, p. 8.

PART THREE

A VISION OF UNITY

CHAPTER VI

JAMES BLAND AND THE UNITARY TRADITION

Prologue: A Vision of Unity

This chapter explores a question that has compelled the interest and research of practically everyone who has investigated the origins of the Bland family in America: were all Blands in the Colonial period descended from just one family, or were there two or more disparate families of Blands, bearing the same name but not closely related? In other words, do American Blands in the 20th century descend from a common or diverse stock?

Obviously, one must qualify what is meant by "closely related." Nicholas Carlisle, in his work, Collections for a History of the Ancient Family of Bland (1826), stated:

> The origin of the Blands commences at a period of remote and inexplicable possession...the great difficulty in tracing genealogy with correctness arises from branches of the same family extending themselves in distant and various directions, and thus propagating stocks apparently unconnected, though all of them are probably the offspring of the same original stem.[1]

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[1] Carlisle, xviii, p. 93.

Carlisle's observation about genealogy is of course a truism. Indeed, in some remote past time there undoubtedly was a solitary man who styled himself Bland, or some variant, and the many branches of the family in England grew from his progeny.[1]

But Carlisle's definition would not satisfy the dedicated genealogist, who not only would want to assume a common ancestral grandparent, but would want to find him, define his life, his marriage and his children. For practical purposes, speaking of the Bland family, it is not possible to probe backward in time much further than 1538, when a more or less uniform method of parish records maintenance was established in England. Beyond that time one must rely upon literary tradition, which for all but the nobility is very scant and unreliable. So the serious genealogist must search for a 16th century founder in England, who could be the source of the seemingly diverse settlements in the New World.

The past five chapters have been devoted to the transition of the Bland family from London to Virginia, and the extension of that family into the 18th century, when it became known to genealogists as the "James River Bland Family." Historically, it is the best known family of Blands and it is a well-documented fact that it stemmed from a London ancestor, Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594) and his wife, Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596), through their last child, John Bland (1572-1632) and

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[1] The size and diversity of the Bland family is suggested by extant English records, which are indexed in skeletal form by the Church of Latter Day Saints. The church's microfiche collection, comprises names from about 1538-1900. The collection for Bland in England includes 188 pages of entries, about sixty to the page, or some 11,000 names. The genealogist is sobered by the fact that these entries detail births and marriages only (not deaths) for some 700 of 11,000 parish registers.

his wife, Susan DeBlere (1590-1664). This family was first identified by Ralph Thoresby in his Ducatus Leodensis (1715) and by the Victorian chroniclers such as Hunter, Slaughter and Campbell. Deservedly, it is considered one of the founding families of Virginia. The genealogical essays these men wrote about the James River family are in major parts verified and reinforced by objective sources, such as parish records in London, wills, deeds, and standard Virginia literary sources such as The Virginia Magazine of History and Biography, The William and Mary Quarterly, Tyler's Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, and others. The James River family is the one that most genealogical researchers of the Bland family encounter first. Whether or not the researcher ultimately discovers a provable descent from the James River family, he invariably must come to terms with it. This is because in colonial Virginia, there were two identifiable families, possibly more. The other significant family of Blands settled in the Virginia Northern Neck in Stafford County, or in its later fragmentation, Prince William, Fauquier and Loudon. The founder of this Stafford County family was James Bland, who was generally thought to have been born about 1655 and died in 1708. James' life will be discussed in some detail later. He seems to have been a contemporary of Theodorick Bland (fifth generation, 1663-1700) and his brother Richard (1665-1720). No one has ever found direct evidence that proves the parentage of James Bland. Owing to the vastly uneven and fragmented nature of record keeping in 17th century Virginia, such evidence may be lost forever.

This evidentiary gap leaves undiscovered the clue that would tell the genealogical researcher who were the parents of James Bland, and ultimately, could answer the lingering question: are the colonial Blands descended from one common stock or from many sources? It is a

question of unity, and as such, goes to the heart of any genealogist's quest to create a seamless continuity as far back into the past as possible.

This writer approaches the question from different perspectives. The genealogist in me wishes, indeed longs, and searches for the unity that would have Virginia settled by one family, or various branches of the same Bland family. The historian in me intuitively rejects the notion of unity as too simplistic for actual historical experience, which often is a jumble of disconnected events. The historian in me, ever skeptical of easy solutions and the symmetry and order that would be suggested by a common stock, looks for and prepares to come to terms with a diverse settlement. The genealogist longing for unity and the historian's skeptical expectation of diversity, operating within the same person, becomes nothing less than a struggle between the heart and the head. What unifies both forces is a trite but compelling desire ultimately to discover the truth of the matter. That is really what this chapter is all about.

To repeat, the line of descent for the James River family is: (1) Robert/Roger Bland of Orton Parish, Westmoreland County, England, with close relations in nearby Sedbergh Parish, York County; (2) Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns of London; (3) John Bland, "The Grocer" and Susan DeBlere of London; (4) Theodorick Bland and Anna Bennett, the Virginians; and primarily, (5) Richard Bland and Elizabeth Randolph and their descendants who flourished in Virginia during the 18th century.

Genealogists have long since concluded that James Bland of Stafford County did not descend from Adam Bland through Adam's son, John Bland, "The Grocer." One woman, however, believes fervently that James Bland descends through the older brother of John, the Grocer, Thomas Bland of

London, the lawyer (1558-1618) and his first wife, Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley (1549-1593). She is Urilla Moore Bland, of Weston, West Virginia, who has devoted most of the last twenty years of her life to a study of the origins of the Bland family. Urilla Bland was born on May 13, 1898, the eldest of four children born to Robert Linn Bland (1868-1957) and his wife, Rebecca Frances Moore (1870-1967). Urilla Bland still lives in Weston, West Virginia, with her surviving brothers.[1]

Miss Bland graduated in 1920 from the Goucher College of Baltimore, Maryland, and taught drama and languages (French, English, Spanish and Latin) at the Weston, West Virginia High School.[2] Urilla Bland also has been a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. The overarching theme of her work may be summed up in her own statement:

> It is my belief, as it was my father's, that all the Blands of Virginia derive from the same English stock.[3]

To affirm her belief in this unity, what hereafter shall be called her unitary vision, Miss Bland cites an oral and written tradition that she grew up with, which held that the two seemingly disparate families were one. For example, her father was so certain that he had descended from Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) that he named his first son after him,[4] only to discover soon afterward that indeed he was not descended from Theodorick (happily leaving his son with that beautiful name).

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1 Urilla Bland's family will be discussed in Chapter VIII.

2 This brief sketch of Urilla Moore Bland is taken from her own "Additional Collections for the Ancient Family of Bland," University of Virginia, Alderman Library Acc No. 9895-b (1974), pp. 183-184.

3 Ibid., p. 1

4 Robert Linn Bland wrote to S. B. Brown, September 15, 1903: "I have always understood that I was a lineal descendant of Colonel Richard Bland of the Revolution." Brown, p. 551.

Following this, Urilla's father, according to her, made it his intent to write and publish a history of the Blands in the United States, and therefore, contacted as many people with the name as he could. In return he received "innumerable pages" of information, which seemed to persist in a tradition of descent from, or close kinship to the James River family.[1]

Urilla Bland's father was close to Anna Bland Thomas, of Cincinnatti, Ohio, who later became Mrs. R. W. Donigan. They collaborated during the early years of the 20th century, and were in correspondence during that time with one Theodorick Bland, living at Jordan's Point, James River, Virginia, who did descend from Theodorick (1629-1671). The correspondence consisted of seven letters during 1896-1897 and related the lineage of the James River Blands in some detail. Mrs. Donigan persisted in her communication with him until the postmaster returned her letters with information that the man was dead. This Theodorick Bland wrote to Mrs. Donigan that he was convinced she was descended from Theodorick (1629-1671) through his third son John (1668-1746).[2]

Additionally, Urilla Bland's great grandfather Thomas Bland (1793-1867) was personally acquainted with various descendants of the James River Blands, named one of his sons Theodorick, and shared a belief with the older Blands that they were descended from the same family. Miss Bland owns an article in the St. Louis Post Dispatch for June 28, 1896,

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1 UMB I, p. 6. Following the death of her father in 1957, Urilla Bland destroyed most of the letters to her father with whom she determined there was no traceable connection.

2 Making her most likely grandparent, Theodorick of Stafford County, Virginia (B. 1746-), son of John Bland (1712-1787). Cf. this study, pp. 134-140. This assumption was a false one.

Urilla Moore Bland
(1898-)

Anna Thomas Donigan

Courtesy: Urilla Moore Bland.

which purports to trace the lineage of the presidential candidate for Free Silver, Richard Parks "Silver Dick" Bland, back to Robert/Roger Bland of Orton, Westmoreland County, England. A copy of this article was sent to old Silver Dick who promptly agreed with the analysis.[1]

Urilla Bland's point in these anecdotes was not to demonstrate their accuracy. Indeed, some were inaccurate and misinformed. For example, it would have been bad form in Victorian America to get into a close discussion about one's origins. The gentlemanly thing to do, short of the need for a legal settlement, if someone claimed to be related to you, or thought he was, would be to generously agree with him. And perhaps nothing more need be said of a presidential candidate's opinion about anything. Silver Dick would have been indeed courageous had he disagreed with the writer's analysis, or threatened to sue if the writer did not substantiate his facts. Urilla Bland's point was to show the strength of a tradition among the older Blands (who were closer to the original founders) that the two families of Theodorick Bland of Westover, and James Bland of Stafford County, were indeed descended from common stock. This tradition has nourished Urilla Bland's particular vision of unity.

If the unitary vision of Urilla Bland is ever to be concretely realized, however, and in general I believe it has, it is obvious that more will have to be known about James Bland of Stafford County, whose life fairly divides the 17th century English and American colonial past

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[1] This information is copied from UMB I, pp. 10-11. A letter from Theodore Bland (1825-1894) to Mary Lorentz, May 23, 1894, discusses "Silver Dick's" lineage, suggesting he was a descendant of the James River family. It also illustrates the early confusion between these two lines. In the biography by W. V. Byars, "The American Commoner," (1900), p. 35, Richard Parks Bland stated that he was descended "mostly" from Colonel Theodorick Bland (1740-1790) and named a son Theodorick. This would have been startling news to Theodorick Bland. Richard Parks Bland's genealogy is discussed in Chapter X, pp. 463-477, esp. pp. 468-472.

from the generations that descend from him. And before proceeding to the theories of linkage between James Bland and the James River family, I would like to reconstruct the known evidence about James Bland's life.

James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia

James Bland formulated his will on December 22, 1708, and it was proved on March 9, 1708/1709. In his will, he mentions a wife, Margaret[1], and eight children, including four sons and four daughters. The sons included three who were over twenty-one: William, James and John, and a fourth, Robert, who was a minor when James' will was made. His four daughters were all minors when the will was made, and their names in order of age were Alice, Patience, Ellen and Hannah.[2] The date of James Bland's birth is not known but is generally estimated as C. 1655, based on information provided to the Daughters of the American Revolution by Mrs. George (Nel) Ford, of Columbus, Mississippi.[3] The source for this estimate is not clear. A more reliable index to the birth of James Bland comes from Mr. Leslie Dawson, who indicated that

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1 The maiden name of Margaret also has evaded discovery, but is also the subject of research by Urilla Bland, and is discussed in Chapter VII.

2 Stafford County, Virginia Will Book Liber Z, 1699-1709, UMB I, pp. 36-37.

3 Mrs. Ford cites information provided by Kate Duncan Smith, of Birmingham, Alabama, but may also have got her information from a genealogist, Homer Jones; letter to Mrs. Ford from Homer Jones, March 4, 1958. Kate Duncan Smith filed two notes of inquiry in the late 19th century about the family of Robert Bland, grandson of James, VMHB, Vol. 3 (1895-1896), p. 206, and WMQ (I), Vol. 4 (1899), p. 134.

a "James Blann" was witness to the proving of a will in St. Mary's County, Maryland, on February 14, 1683/1684.[1] So far as I know, this is the earliest extant evidence proving James Bland's presence in Maryland or Virginia.

Although this information does not confirm a birthdate for James Bland, it does provide some limiting parameters, which do not exclude the calculation of Kate Duncan Smith and Homer Jones that James was born about 1655. As Mr. Dawson points out, contemporary law forbade service as a witness unless the individual was over twenty-one. Hence, James could have been born no later than 1662, and chances are strong that he would not have reached Maryland in 1683, just in time to witness a will at the scant age of twenty-one. Thus, he was certainly born sometime before 1662.

Obviously, it is important to establish as nearly as possible, James' birthdate, since English records show numerous James Blands. The fact that he could not have been born any later than 1662 would make it useful to push the parameters back into time as far as possible, in other words, to establish the earliest date he could logically have been born.

One way to go about this is to examine known information about James Bland's family. When James made his will in 1708, he had a wife Margaret and eight children, of whom two had to be born no later than 1687 (because they were left unconditional bequests of land and guardian responsibilities for other children in James' will). One was left land but no guardian responsibilities, suggesting that he had not yet reached his majority but was about to. The remaining children, including a son

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1 Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland, November 19, 1980. Source cited was William M. Sweeney, Wills of Rappahanock County, Virginia, 1665-1692, p. 107.

who was probably still a minor in 1723, and four daughters, were all minors when James made his will. To me, for reasons to be elaborated upon in Chapter VII, this age distribution suggests that James was married twice, first to an unknown woman who was the mother of his older children, and second to Margaret _____, who was the mother of his younger children. It also suggests that he was fathering children right up to the time of his death. In checking the ages of fathers at the time of their children's birth in other ascertainable cases during the 17th century, I have found few cases where children were born to fathers who had passed their fifties. (John Bland, the Grocer, was an exception. His last child was born when he was 59, but that may have had less to do with John than with Susan DeBlere's fantastic fecundity.) These probable age parameters would establish a general range of between 1648-1662, and 1655, and would seem to be a respectable median compromise. Of all the James Blands born within these chronological parameters (1648-1662) only one, James Bland of St. Andrews Penrith Parish, Cumberland County, born October 31, 1661, seems to have potential as the same man who died in Stafford County, Virginia, in 1708, and that possibility, because of contradictory information to be subsequently discussed, is very slim.

Also, James' will was clearly composed, either written or dictated by James himself, who declared that he was "sick of body but sound and perfect of sense and memory." This clause would have protected James' heirs from any claim against his estate.

From the above, it appears that James Bland's birthdate cannot be ascertained from extant English parish records. One must recall, however, that in dealing with extant records, the pool of evidence

consists of some 700 of 11,000 total parishes. Given these enormous odds against successfully developing information about James Bland's parentage from parish records, one must turn elsewhere for proof.

After his appearance in the St. Mary's County, Maryland records in 1683, James Bland does not reappear until October 21, 1687, when he leased lands and a plantation at the head of the Quanticutt River in Stafford County, Virginia, from one Richard Gibson.[1] Reference to James' apparent settlement near the Quanticutt River in Stafford County, Virginia, as well as his subsequent purchase of land near Powells Creek in 1701 (see map on page 206A) and the settlement of his children near the Occoquan River (which will be discussed in Chapter VII), is critical to subsequent development of Urilla Bland's theory that James Bland was related to the James River Blands.

Later, James Bland was sued by Gibson for breach of contract. Gibson claimed he had an agreement with James, apparently that the latter would act as a work foreman for a fee of 500 pounds of tobacco and subsistence. James, however, several times during the contract period,

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1 As shown in a Stafford County court session conducted on October 6, 1691, in which James was ordered to pay Gibson 800 pounds of tobacco for the lease. This was a fairly considerable sum of money. The fact that James could enter into a contract of this size (my reading is that the court ordered payment of the 800 pounds of tobacco from an original 5,000 pound claim by Gibson) lends credibility to Urilla Bland's theory that James belonged to a monied family. James also stood bond for Thomas Meech in the amount of 800 pounds sterling in 1696, also a very substantial sum of money. Noting this, Christopher Johnston remarked in his letter to Robert Linn Bland, October 28, 1904, "it would appear from this that James Bland was a man of substance." Cf. Stafford County Order Book, (1689-1693), pp. 127, 159, 237; Milton Wilson, The Bland Family of New Hanover and Duplin County, North Carolina (no date); hereafter referred to as Wilson. UMB I, p. 40; and VMHB, Vol. 45 (1937), pp. 245-247.

"had gone to tend his corne," and had thus slowed down the pace of work. At the end of the contract period, Gibson claimed that he had agreed to a request by James that his wage rate be changed to 20 pounds of tobacco per day. But, to hear Gibson tell it, James was not a very good laborer, for although:

> He did in July begin to work upon the said agreement ...in some tolerable manner...being only now and then a day or two absent, which although was some damage of hindrance of work.[1]

In the end, Gibson claimed that James Bland walked off the job and "drew other labourers off alsoe."

In this claim, Gibson was not believed by the court and was ordered to pay James Bland 696 pounds of tobacco, in addition to court costs.[2] The nature of this legal exchange between Gibson and James Bland suggests that the lease of land in Quanticutt was interconnected with an agreement to do certain work for Gibson. It also suggests that James Bland was a bit vexatious and, at the least, susceptible to trouble of various kinds. This conclusion is supported by the next action of record that appears concerning James Bland.

James apparently took his settlement with Gibson and left the county, probably for St. Mary's County, Maryland, for on November 19, 1692, one Abraham Spicer lodged a suit against him for 1,000 pounds of tobacco in damages, but "the said Bland having absented himself out of this county...pl'f could not by legal course recover his said debt."[3]

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Wilson, p. 291.

James participated in legal roles, as witness to wills, and as surety several times in St. Mary's County, Maryland, between 1694-1698.[1] It is impossible to determine exactly what landed status he held in St. Mary's County. Christopher Johnston informed Urilla Bland's father that he had never found a specific grant of land to James Bland in St. Mary's County for even if James had purchased land there, it would be impossible to document because the county's court records were destroyed by fire.[2]

On December 8, 1701, Burr Harrison sold to James Bland, "now living at Poplar Hill in St. Mary's County, Maryland, six hundred acres of land in Stafford County, Virginia, described as follows:

> ...on the south side of Powell's Creek, containing 600 acres beginning at the mouth of the said creek at the corner of a small marsh before the spring and so run up the creek in length and breadth outward in the fork called Corkled Point.[3]

James moved back to Stafford County early in 1702 and lived upon these six hundred acres until he died.

Although this outline of James' life from 1683-1708 is admittedly a sketchy one, it does confirm that he was evidently monied, meaning that he came from a family with money or was extremely shrewd in his business dealings once he got to America. Also, fragmentary though the information is, one concludes from his shuttling back and forth across

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1 Dawson notes, citing for 1694, 2 Cotton; Wilson, p. 291, citing for 1695; Jane Baldwin, Maryland Calendar of Wills: 1685-1702, Vol. 1-2; UMB I, pp. 40-42, citing for 1696 and 1698, Maryland Records, Test & Proc. Lib 16, Fol 150, and Lib 18, Fol 221.

2 Christopher Johnston to Robert Linn Bland, October 28, 1904.

3 Wilson, p. 291, and VMHB, Vol. 23 (1915), p. 215.

the Chesapeake, and from the Gibson and Spicer suits against him, that James was a troubled man, who was never quite able to settle down until he bought the 600 acres in Stafford County. This information is critical in developing Urilla Bland's unitary theory about the parentage of James Bland. The evidence itself does not offer a clue about James Bland's parents, but the patterns of movement revealed may do so.

As will be shown on the following pages, James Bland's known movements from 1683-1708 are remarkably like those made by Thomas Bland, an attorney from Maryland. James also had business and legal associations with individuals who, in some cases, had conducted business with Thomas Bland. The potential relationship between James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia, and Thomas Bland, of Maryland, forms the core of this chapter.

Three Links to Unity

In a fragment to Robert Linn Bland, written early in this century, Anna Bland Thomas Donigan states:

> I have been pondering over George, the son of Thomas (will 1618) who married Mrs. Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley. George's will is dated 1648. He had a son Thomas. The will of our ancestor James is dated 1708. There are sixty years intervening between the two dates and I think in all likelihood, George's son Thomas is the father of our James.[1]

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[1] Letter, Anna Thomas Bland Donigan to Robert L. Bland, undated but written between 1905 and 1915. According to Carlisle, p. 136, George Bland (1589-1648) "had one child only, named Thomas." Mrs. Donigan, assuming perhaps that there was no other Thomas in England, further assumed that this Thomas was the father of James.

Within this brief paragraph lies the germ of Urilla Bland's persistent vision of unity between the James River and Stafford County Bland families. Mrs. Donigan's assertion is breathtaking in its simplicity, and requires, of course, substantial proof to transform it into reality. There must be either direct evidence, a "smoking gun," as it were, or strongly developed indirect evidence that accomplishes three things: (1) there must be a Thomas Bland geographically and chronologically in proximity to James Bland; (2) there must be direct or strong inferential evidence that shows the same Thomas Bland was James Bland's father, or brother; (3) the same Thomas Bland must, by direct or powerful inferential evidence, be proved the son of George Bland (1589-1648) or, a possibility Mrs. Donigan and Urilla Bland did not consider, that Thomas, of Maryland, was a grandson of George. Proof of these three essential links would join the James River and Stafford County families through two brothers, Thomas Bland (1558-1618) and John Bland, "The Grocer" (1572-1632), whose common parents were Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594) and Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596). Such linkage would transform Urilla Bland's vision of unity into historical and genealogical reality.

Link I: Thomas Bland of Maryland

In two letters to Robert Linn Bland, written in 1904 and 1905, Christopher Johnston supplied some basic information about one Thomas Bland who came to Maryland about 1670, practiced law there, and disappeared from the Maryland records about 1699.[1] Subsequent research by Milton Wilson, of Bartow, Florida, supplemented Johnston's inform-

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[1] Christopher Johnston to Robert Linn Bland, October 28, 1904 and December 14, 1905.

ation, as did critical research undertaken in the 1970's by Urilla Bland, and especially Mr. Leslie Dawson, an attorney from New York City (now Plainfield, New Jersey), who traces his ancestry to James Bland through James' daughter Ellen.[1] The following analysis of Thomas Bland, Maryland attorney, is based upon their collective researches, which more than amply fulfills the requirements for Link I: there was a Thomas Bland in chronological and geographic proximity to James Bland.

In 1659, a Thomas Bland leased lands known as "Maryland Point" in Essex County, England. This Thomas Bland was said to have "relatives who were planters in Virginia."[2] Leasing one's lands on the part of one who has relatives in Virginia might signal preparation for departure to the new world. Two years later, on January 19, 1661/1662, a 200-acre site in Maryland on the south side of the Severn River, called "Richardson's Folly" was surveyed for the heirs of Thomas Bland.[3] The Severn River is a critical location in the potential correlation of Thomas' and James Bland's lives. It lies just to the south of present-day Glen Burnie, in Anne Arundel County, and empties into the Chesapeake Bay. As the map on page 206B shows, it would not be a far distance by boat into the Potomac River region, where James Bland spent most of his life in Stafford County, Virginia, and St. Mary's, Maryland.

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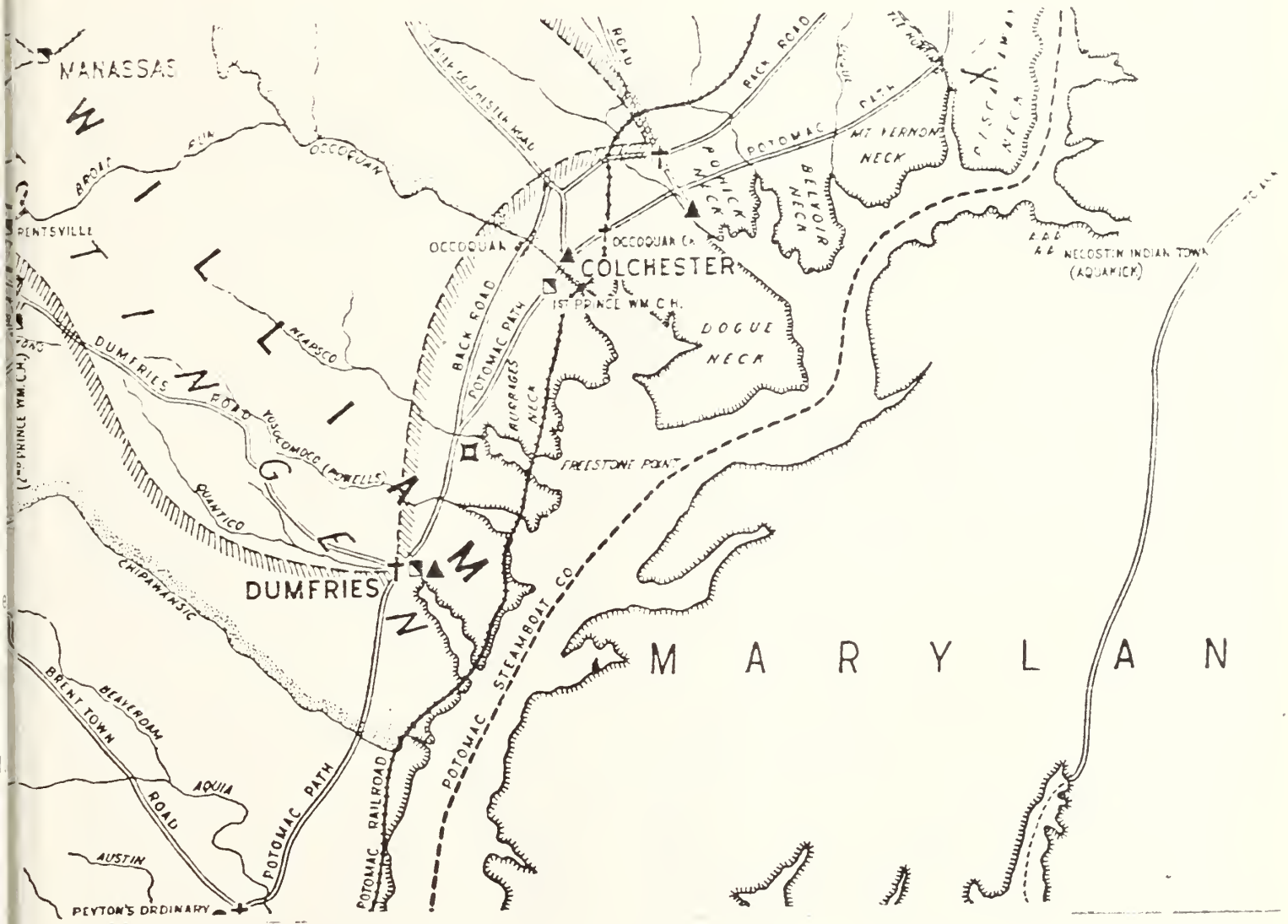
1 UMB II, p. 1. Cf. Leslie Dawson, History of the Dawson-Davis Family and Related Families of Fairfax and Prince William Counties, Virginia (1974), pp. 67-68.

2 New England Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. 43 (April 1889), p. 139. Another seeming irony, though inconclusive as linking evidence, is the fact that George Bland (1589-1648) moved to Arundel in Sussex County. If my calculations are correct, his son Thomas was born in Sussex County. The London family described in Chapter I had variously properties in Sussex, Kent, Essex, Suffolk and Middlesex Counties, all surrounding the city of London.

3 Rent Rolls, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, 1651-1718, Calvert Papers #883, cited in Wilson, p. 292.

MAP V

Stafford County, Virginia, about 1750, illustrating location of Dumfries and the position of Powell's Creek between the Quanticutt and Occoquan Rivers.



Source: H. C. Groome, Fauquier During the Proprietorship (1927, Reprint 1967).

Permission to reprint this map was granted by the Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

MAP VI

The Chesapeake Bay Area About 1700

On March 22, 1665/1666, William Beach and Richard Hatoff applied to the government of Virginia for a patent of 2200 acres of land, "lying in the county of Stafford upon the main line of the Quanticutt Creek" (now known as Quantico), for the transportation of 44 persons, including a man named Thomas Bland. It is likely, then, that Thomas arrived in Virginia about 1665 or shortly before that date. This date would follow in sequence, if he was the same man who leased "Maryland Point" in Essex, England in 1659, and purchased "Richardson's Folly" in Anne Arundel Maryland, probably in-absentia.

But for the moment, the reader may recur to the Beach-Hatoff transaction. The area Beach and Hatoff claimed patent rights to, along the Quanticutt Creek was, as the map on page 206A shows, south of Dumfries, Powells Creek and the Occoquan River, which is the general area where James Bland leased lands of Richard Gibson in 1687 and bought 600 acres of land in 1701.[1] This proximity cannot be overlooked in determining the possibility of a close relationship between James and Thomas Bland.

A person who immigrated to Virginia from England and then moved to Maryland would have been characterized by Maryland law as an emigrant, thereby eligible to apply for a land patent in Maryland, for transportation of self to the colony.[2] Thomas Bland did precisely that. On October 2, 1672, Thomas applied for and received 50 acres for "transporting himself into this province to inhabit."[3] Thomas immediately sold the land, but that is not germane. Again, the land application

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1 Nugent I, p. 546; a true copy of the Beach-Hatoff application is provided in UMB II, p. 32.

2 This insight was provided by Mr. Dawson, cited in UMB II, p. 24.

3 Maryland Land Office Records, Patent Liber 17, Folio 56, true copy provided in UMB II, p. 28.

could have come several years after Thomas' actual arrival in Maryland, indicating that he moved from the Stafford County area to Maryland sometime between 1666 and 1672.[1]

These dates correspond to the dates Thomas applied to the Maryland bar for admission to practice law: sometime between 1666-1672.

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[1] Thomas Bland appears never to have become a substantial landowner. Like James Bland, he was generally too much on the run during his years in Maryland to settle down for very long. On June 29, 1680, he secured 200 acres known as "Bland's Quarter," which was in Anne Arundel County, north of the Severn. (Dawson notes. A true copy of this transaction, Anne Arundel Records, Liber CB, No. 28, Folios 329-30, is provided in UMB II, p. 29.) Elizabeth Wheeler Frances and Ethel Sivley Moore, Lost Links: New Recording of Old Data from Many States (1945), p. 404, abstracts the will of John Wolmsley, in which his grandson, Richard Goodwin, is deeded land called "Gray's Increase" and "Bland's Quarter," and after several others, the land is to go to Elinor Bland. Mr. Leslie Dawson noted that he did not think this Elinor Bland was the daughter of James Bland of Stafford County, who married William Davis, probably about 1725. Mr. Dawson noted, citing Maryland records: "When Thomas Bland left Maryland...about 1700, 'Bland's Quarte was in possession of Joseph Smith." (Letter, Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland, September 3, 1981.) Bland also received an additional 310 acres in Anne Arundel during 1680 (Dawson notes, citing Gust Skordas, Early Settlers of Maryland: A List Compiled from Land Patents, 1633-1680 (1968: Reprinted 1979), p. 45.) In 1697, sixty acres called "Crouch's Triangle" was mortgaged to Thomas Bland, but by then his time was about up in Maryland, and in what appears to have been his last action in the Maryland records, he assigned this property to one Philip Jones (Anne Arundel Records, Liber WT, No. I, Folio 18, December 16, 1699). In 1707, after his death, half of the lands surveyed in 1661/1662, called "Richardson's Folly," was reserved for the heirs of Thomas Bland, indicating that at an unspecified time, Thomas had sold off 100 of the original 200 acres. (Anne Arundel County Rent Rolls, p. 48, cited in UMB I, p. 31, and Wilson, p. 292. Significantly, the property for the heirs of Thomas Bland was held by Cornelius Howard; see discussion subsequently in Link II.) Leslie Dawson's exhaustive research of the Maryland records have turned up no other information about land owned by Thomas Bland. This would seem to establish Thomas Bland as a rather middling property owner, holding at the most between 600-700 acres of land. This would have been ample for his subsistence, but qualitatively and quantitatively inferior to the vast landholdings of the James River family at about the same time. In a time when land and its entitlements were the real sources of power, such a small estate left Thomas vulnerable to attack by the enemies he later made.

He claimed at the time of admission, among other things, to have studied at the British Inner Temple for six years,[1] and his application was persuasive enough to gain him license to practice in Maryland. Having established himself at law, Thomas then settled down for a sojourn in Maryland that would last for about thirty years (1666-1672 to 1699) and which was so tumultuous that Job himself would have pitied him. By 1670, Thomas was probably about 36, and undoubtedly had been married before, but must have been widowed, for one of the first things he did was to find himself a wife. The following is how events transpired to acquaint Thomas Bland with his new wife.

About 1650, Nicholas Wyatt, Matthew Howard and Edward Dorsey emigrated to Maryland from Virginia and settled at the "Middle Neck

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[1] Whether or not Thomas ever actually studied law remains a mystery. There were later allegations that he had not, and Mr. Dawson's search of two sources, Alfred Jones, American Members of the Inns of Court, and Hamilton's "Southern Members of the Inns of Court," in North Carolina Historical Review, Vol. 10, p. 273, shows no evidence that he did. At Mr. Dawson's instance, I obtained a copy of W. G. Cooke, Students Admitted to the Inner Temple, 1547-1660 (1877) but found no record of Thomas Bland's admission. On the hunch that historians might have got things mixed up, I searched other sources for admission of Thomas to other Inns of Court but found none. Mr. Dawson stated on June 30, 1981: "In my opinion, Thomas Bland of Maryland had never been admitted to the Inner Temple but was masquerading as a lawyer in Maryland." On August 20, 1981, Mr. Dawson noted my negative findings in Cooke and stated: "To me, that is conclusive evidence that he was a fraud." This question is one of many enigmas in Thomas' life. He had a brother, Richard, who apparently did study at the Inner Temple (cf. Foster, p. 139). It may be that Thomas and Richard's father was an inspiration for both to study law, and that Thomas was simply never recorded (as Richard was not; the information about him comes from a marriage allegation). Alternately, it may be that Richard's profession gave the germ of a lie to Thomas which he nourished during his stay in Maryland. Richard, also, might have been a fraud.

Hundred," on the south side of the Severn.[1] Wyatt and Dorsey at least were Quakers. Particularly important here are Nichols Wyatt and Edward Dorsey. Wyatt had married a widow named Damaris _____, who had children by her previous marriage, as did Wyatt himself, particularly one daughter Sarah,[2] who as it happened, married Edward Dorsey.

Nicholas Wyatt died January 22, 1673/1674, leaving a will that had been made in 1671, and which named his wife Damaris as executrix, mentioning also Sarah Wyatt Dorsey and a son, Samuel.[3] In Maryland, as in Virginia in the 17th century, one's estate could be a very perishable commodity, what with lawyers and doctors hovering around like vultures while a terminally ill man composed his will. Widows were seldom left long to their grief, and lawyers and doctors were particularly apt suitors: moving in on the widow of a deceased man was one way of building up one's estate, and in these circumstances, any legal transaction could be a highly suspect affair, wherein even momentarily absent heirs could lost valuable entitlements, to be recovered only after long and exhausting litigation.

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1 Dawson notes, citing Kelley, Quakers in Maryland, pp. 16-20. Edward Dorsey was in Portsmouth, Virginia about 1642, and removed to Anne Arundel Maryland about 1650. Dawson notes citing Founders and Patriots, p. 92. This would have been Edward Dorsey, Sr. who drowned in 1659, and his wife Anne. Both were Quakers. Dawson citing Newman, Vol. 2, p. 7, and Maryland Archives, Vol. 41, p. 7.

2 Wyatt also had a son Samuel, who died in 1673. Dawson notes citing Dorsey Family, p. 190.

3 Maryland Records, Liber I, p. 546; Cotton 1:79; Kelly, pp. 16-20, and Warfield, 58, cited in Dawson notes.

Enter Thomas Bland, who in 1674 married Damaris _____ Wyatt, and got himself named administrator of Nicholas Wyatt's estate.[1] Since Thomas did not mention Damaris in his will of 1700, one must assume that she died sometime before he left Maryland in 1699. Since she was a widow when she married Nicholas Wyatt, Damaris must have been substantially older than Thomas, increasing one's suspicion that the marriage was another example of Thomas' opportunism rather than a love match. At any rate, Thomas became administrator of the estate of Nicholas Wyatt and undoubtedly influenced Damaris' disposition.[2]

None of this sat well with Edward Dorsey and his wife, Sarah Wyatt Dorsey,[3] daughter of Nicholas Wyatt and step-daughter of Damaris _____ Wyatt Bland. In 1675-1676, the Dorsey's initiated a suit contesting the will on grounds that Wyatt was mentally incompetent when he made Damaris his executrix. Captain Cornelius Howard, who wrote Wyatt's will, testified that "the testator did not appear to be in condition at that time, to remember what he owned."[4] Thomas Bland called among others testifying

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1 Daswon notes, citing Newman II, and Maryland Test. Proceedings, Vol. 6, p. 217.

2 Ibid.

3 Sarah Wyatt Dorsey died in 1692, and Edward Dorsey died in 1705. Dawson notes, citing 15 Maryland Archives, p. 253. In 1662, Nicholas Wyatt, Cornelius Howard, Edward Dorsey and Elizabeth Sisson received land grants in Anne Arundel County. Dawson notes, citing Richardson, p. 320.

4 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 51, pp. 104, 153, 197, 219, 275, 312 -319, 544-550; Vol. 66, pp. xxiv, 421, 481-482; Vol. 68, pp. 56, 249; Joshua D. Warfield, Founders of Anne Arundel County (1905), pp. 57-58, 163; Maryland Test Proceedings, Vol. 8, p. 75; Anne Arundel County, Liber II, p. 262, Cf. UMB I, pp. 31-35.

in his behalf, one Samuel Chew, who was later accused by the Protestant Copley government of being a Jacobite (apologist for King James II, who was deposed in 1688). Both Howard and Chew would later play roles in Thomas Bland's life. The case was decided in favor of Edward Dorsey, who was named administrator and promptly sued Thomas Bland and Damaris Wyatt Bland for an accounting of the estate's assets. A series of acrimonious suits and countersuits ensued and continued for several years. In one of the suits, Thomas enjoined Richard Hill, an Anne Arundel County Judge, as a party in seeking dismissal of Dorsey's charges. Hill successfully countered Bland's charges, claiming that they were vexatious and litigous, and succeeded in laying court costs to Thomas Bland.[1]

Subsequently, Thomas and Damaris filed a suit against Judge Hill, who was executor for the estate of one Richard Gardiner, claiming that Hill had never paid Damaris for services as midwife to Gardiner's wife.[2] Damaris sued another woman for much the same reason. Such suits were not uncommon in 17th century Chesapeake society, but given the subjects involved, in the case of Thomas Bland and Damaris Wyatt, they may have given rise to a reputation that the couple was nettlesome and constantly involved in some quarrel. As in the case of Giles Bland's dispute with Anna Bennett Bland in Virginia, the personal grievance with the Dorseys, also involving Judge Hill, invariably began to spill over into the public domain, ultimately damaging Thomas' reputation. In 1681, Thomas Bland

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1 Ibid.

2 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 66, pp. 26, 396; Vol. 67, p. 49, and Vol. 68, p. 20.

sued Judge Hill for slander, accusing Hill of stating in court that Bland was unfit to practice law and that he constantly stirred up litigation. Thomas did not appear at the subsequent trial, leaving an open field to Hill, who lambasted Bland with serious charges that stuck to his reputation, including the creation of doubt that Bland had ever been admitted to law practice.[1]

Hill's charges apparently had some ground in Thomas Bland's performance as a lawyer. Mr. Dawson's notes show Thomas to have been active in the law until the 1690's, when he was discredited for political reasons. But the legal cases he handled, where there is any substance at all, seem to have come to bad ends, possibly because of Thomas' mishandling of them. Several examples may illustrate the point.

In 1679, Thomas was a lawyer for one Joseph Tilley in a suit against a practising lawyer. Whatever Thomas' judgment in taking on the court, and also taking account that the lawyer might have been protected to some degree by his peers, the Chancery court hearing the case, found Tilley's complaint so scandalous that it was ordered purged from the record and Thomas Bland was ordered to pay all court costs.[2]

During 1683-1685, Thomas Bland acted as court-appointed attorney for one Jacob Young, who was being impeached by the Maryland Assembly for consorting with the Indians. Young was spared from hanging, but left on more or less permanent probation, for he had to post bond and appear before the Assembly once each year for the rest of his life, to be examined and to assure them of his good conduct.[3]

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1 Dawson notes, citation uncertain. Cf. p. 209, note 1.

2 Dawson notes, Maryland Archives, Vol. 51, pp. 293, 312.

3 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 7, pp. 380, 386, 393, 472, 475, 479, 485.

In 1685, Thomas Bland was an attorney for the defendent Tench in the case of Tench vs. Hopkins, in the Maryland provincial court. Tench won the case against Hopkins' charge of usury. Thomas did not remain with the case and it was ultimately overturned in 1698, after being appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, and to the Governor and Council.[1]

Decisions such as this one ultimately weakened Thomas' reputation, and it is significant that this last decision was ultimately overturned in 1698, by which time Thomas apparently had no legal standing to practice law in Maryland, but was simply a propertyholder of modest dimensions. It is clear that Thomas was undone by associations in various events during the historical period that is known as the "Glorious Revolution," though his exact role in the revolution is obscure. Likewise, the motivation of Thomas' accusers remains opaque.

The basic facts of the Glorious Revolution, particularly as it touched upon events in Maryland, are as follows:

Charles II died in 1685, and was succeeded by his brother, James II, a devout Catholic with a marginal amount of political sense, who attempted to return England to the days of Queen Mary's Catholicism. His inclination was first manifested when he set about introducing Catholics into key government positions. His actions alarmed the predominantly Protestant Parliament, which perceived that the gravest constitutional issues were building. Given its nature, however, Parliament tarried for awhile with James, anticipating that upon his death, Princess Mary, the grandchild of the Earl of Clarendon and married to the Protestant William of

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1 Dawson notes, citing American Legal Records, pp. 61-74.

Orange, would ascend to the throne. (Princess Mary and William of Orange are known in history as William and Mary.) This wait and see attitude was punctured, alas, when in June 1688, a baby son was born to James and his wife, making it certain that he would take precedence in the line of succession over Mary, if James remained King. Since the new son was certain to be raised in Catholicism, his birth occasioned a rare consensus in Parliament, which resulted in an invitation to William and Mary to take over the throne. A potential bloodbath was averted in December 1688, when James momentarily suspended his innate stupidity and fled the throne. The joint coronation of William and Mary occurred in April 1689, consummating the peaceful and "Glorious Revolution."[1]

While the Glorious Revolution was generally peaceful, there were subcurrents and eddies underneath the surface calm that worked profoundly on many aspects of English life. This was especially true in Maryland, which in 1688 had a population of some 25,000, which was Protestant by about 20-1, but was ruled by a Catholic family. The transition of power from James, to William and Mary, set in train a 25-year period of Protestant rule in Maryland, which was marked in the beginning by ambivalence and instability. The Catholic Lord Baltimore, whose family had ruled Maryland from the outset, and who held the real power in Maryland in 1688, had nothing to gain, of course, from a Protestant takeover. He was, however, a pragmatist who had learned (as James II never did) to suspend sectarian belief when secular policy was at stake. He was backed, moreover, by Protestant as well as Catholic landowners,

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[1] The general events of the Glorious Revolution are told in Michael Hall, Ed., The Glorious Revolution in America (1968), pp. 143-146, 167-170 and 192-195.

property holders and merchants who were anxious to preserve a stable environment in which to pursue their business interests. In February 1688/1689, Baltimore, who was in England at the time, drafted a proclamation of William and Mary to be read in Maryland, but the courier died en route, and Baltimore's order never reached Maryland. Consequently, Maryland dithered while the other North American colonies proclaimed William and Mary. By July 1689, the colony was sliding into serious instability. On the western side of the Chesapeake, especially in St. Mary's, Calvert and Charles Counties, but also in Anne Arundel, men of property, large and small, but outside the circle of government (men like Thomas Bland), began to coalesce around a man named John Goode. These counties composed the primary population centers and the government seat at St. Mary's City, which Goode's men seized. The Goode insurgents formed themselves into a Protestant association and elected delegates to a special Assembly which met in August 1689 (the regular Assembly had been postponed since December 1688, adding to confusion in the colony). The insurgent Assembly affirmed William and Mary, voted to establish lines of communication with Protestants in the other colonies. During the following year, until Goode and his allies sailed to England to persuade the king to take over the government, Maryland continued in a state of uncertainty. The insurgents persuaded the government in England to suspend Lord Baltimore's right of government and to replace him with a trusted Protestant, Sir Lionel Copley, in June 1691. This set the stage for twenty-five years of Royal Protestant rule in Maryland, mitigated by the Lord Baltimore's retention of charter land, and land taxes. In 1715, the then-Lord Baltimore converted to the Anglican church and the full rights of government were restored to the proprietor.[1]

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1 Ibid

Thomas Bland's role in these developments is unclear. Certainly, they were not momentous, but they did contribute to his decline in Maryland. On July 25, 1692, Nicholas Greenberry, a staunch supporter of John Goode, who had participated in charges of treason against Judge Richard Hill (Thomas Bland's nemesis), filed a complaint of "a great cabal...(in Anne Arundel County) held by the Grand Leaders of the Jacobite Party," and he listed Samuel Chew (Thomas Bland's friend) and Edward Dorsey (Thomas Bland's enemy) as participants. Later, he addressed a letter charging misconduct by three men, including Thomas Bland and Henry Jowles.[1] Jowles had been involved in litigation that set him in opposition to Lord Baltimore, and was one of the leaders of the Goode insurgency, being himself a member of the Assembly and a colonel in the militia.[2] These charges seem to indicate factional disputes within the Copley coalition, rather than precise lines of division. But they were damaging enough apparently to permanently cripple Thomas Bland's reputation. In 1693, Thomas applied to Governor Copley for admission as an attorney to the provincial court, claiming that he had been a good citizen and had practiced law in Maryland for over twenty years. His application was rejected because he had, "upon the late revolution, applied himself a person disaffected to their majesties and the present government."[3] There followed bitter recriminations as Thomas petitioned the council to be relieved of all charges against him, but his appeal was rejected, and he was left to his own devices.[4]

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1 Warfield, pp. 162-163. Cf. UMB I, p. 35; Wilson, p. 293; Leslie Dawson to Urilla Bland, August 18, 1975; and UMB II, p. 4.

2 Hall, Ed., p. 145.

3 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 8, pp. 552-553.

4 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 20, p. 17.

Thomas may have been attempting to salvage his standing in Anne Arundel County when in 1696 he became a vestry member of the Protestant St. Anne's Church, and in the same year signed a petition that congratulated King William upon his recent escape from an attack by Jacobites.[1] But by then, Thomas was an old man, certainly in his sixties, without any substantial property and with no legal standing in his profession of law. His public life in Maryland was apparently ruined. The last known entry for Thomas Bland in the Maryland records was his disposition of "Crouch's Triangle," in December 1699.[2] Perhaps he was liquidating as many assets as he could, in preparation for his return to London where he lived out the year of 1700, making his will on November 25, 1700. He died soon after, for his will was proved January 13, 1700/1701.

The circumstances suggest that Thomas' departure from Maryland was inauspicious. Upon making his will, he styled himself a merchant rather than a lawyer. It may be that he did not want to leave any clues about his Maryland identity. Further, as Mr. Dawson points out, Thomas may have had to come clean in London, "where his friends and relations would know he had not studied at the Inns of Court, as he had claimed in Maryland."[3]

He left to a cousin, Sarah Pendrill, "all my plantations, mortgages houses, tobacco houses ect. in Anne Arundel County in the Province of

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1 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 20, p. 538, and Vol. 23, and Warfield 76; Cf. UMB I, p. 34, and Wilson, p. 293.

2 Dawson notes, citing Maryland Test Proceedings, Vol. 18, p. 289.

3 Essay from an unused fragment on the Bland family, given to the author by Leslie Dawson. As the reader may have already guessed, Mr. Dawson allows Thomas Bland no quarter, and delights in pricking his pomposity.

Maryland." Mr. Dawson's researches of the record convinces him, and I agree, that no other Bland at that time, let alone another Thomas Bland, owned any land in Anne Arundel County.[1] This makes it a certainty that the Thomas Bland who made his will in London on November 25, 1700, was the same Thomas Bland who sold "Crouch's Triangle" in Anne Arundel County, Maryland, in December 1699.

Link II: Was Thomas Bland the Father of James Bland?

Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson have done a truly remarkable reconstruction of the life of Thomas Bland of Maryland. Thanks to them, there is positive evidence for an extended period of time (1666/1672-1699) in Maryland, of a Thomas Bland who completes Link I of the three-part linkage necessary to join the Stafford County and James River Blands.[2]

Links II and III, however, are much more tentative, and while their solidity is plausible, they are complex and ambiguous. To complete Link II, a determination must be made, either through direct evidence or through powerfully developed indirect evidence, that Thomas Bland, of Maryland, was the father of James Bland, of Virginia.

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1 Will of Thomas Bland, Carlisle, p. 100; New England Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. 48 (January 1894), pp. 114-115; Waters, Gleanings, p. 815, and letter from Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland, November 19, 1980. Regarding "cousin Sarah Pendrill," an elementary caution bears repeating. Cousin, nephew and niece were used loosely and interchangeably in 17th century England. Sarah Pendrill was in fact Thomas Bland's niece. See discussion on pp. 231-232; Table XIV, p. 240A.

2 Inasmuch as one link must necessarily build upon and interact with the others, it is impossible to praise Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson enough for their tireless and thoughtful work. My own contribution, which has been to arrange their material into a narrative stream, is modest by comparison.

Any direct evidence of a "smoking gun," as it were, that would point to the parentage of James Bland has never been discovered. Further, given the fragmentary nature of English, Virginia and Maryland records, it is unlikely that any such discovery will be made. There is only one Thomas-James Bland father-son combination in England during the chronological range that concerns James Bland. He is James, son of Thomas, born in 1659 in the Addingham Parish of York County. The siblings of this James, however, make it impossible in light of information to be discussed presently, that this father-son combination is the one American genealogists are seeking. There are no other direct evidence indications that I know of which would link James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia, to any Thomas Bland.[1]

The most compelling indirect evidence for a father-son relationship between Thomas and James Bland was supplied in seminal form through a letter from Christopher Johnston to Robert Linn Bland of December 14, 1905, in which Johnston outlined a complex chain of relationships between

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[1] One possibility, unexplored at the time of this writing, is the back side of the will written by Thomas Bland of Maryland on November 25, 1700. The abstract of the will is reprinted in three sources. I have read the actual will which is not preserved in its entirety. If it is still preserved in its entirety, critical information could yet be yielde Thomas says in the body of the will, "to every person whose name is inserted on the back of this will, one gold ring of the value of about ten shillings." The designees for those gold rings, if known, might clear up a great deal of ambiguity. In an attempt to find out who the designees were, I decided to go beyond the published abstracts of the will and order the will from the British Public Records Office. The will was ordered in late June 1981, and in September, I received a copy of the will of Thomas Bland "Scrivener," dated 1666-1667, which is of course the wrong will. Subsequently, I asked an acquaintance, Janet Henel, of Salt Lake City, Utah, to obtain a copy of the will from the Mormon Library. She did obtain a copy of the will from a microfilm record but no information from the back of the will was available. According to her, personnel at the Mormon Library indicated that the will had been copied from the British Public Records Office exactly as found, and they doubtec that the backside of the will had survived. The will sent to me by Mrs. Henel was substantially as it is found in Waters Gleanings, p. 815. Obviously, the question cannot be resolved by less than a trip to England. Janet Henel to Charles Bland, October 25, 1981.

persons and property, which he said left the possibility of "a certain semblance of a connection between Thomas and James Bland." Johnston's information is quoted below, footnoted by the further elaborations that have emerged from the researches of Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson:

> "There is only one circumstance that seems to point to a connection between Thomas and James Bland, and it is after all a rather indirect indication. I think I mentioned it to you before, but it will do no harm to repeat it.
>
> "John Sisson, Anne Arundel County, Maryland, Planter, will not dated, recorded 12 January 1663 (Wills, Liber I, Folio 197, Test. Proc Liber ID, Folio 173): 'To my wife, Frances Sisson, my plantation whereon I live, being 420 acres during widowhood, and afterward to my oldest daughter, Jean Sisson. To my dear wife, two trunks of wearing apparel. Also, Katherine Davis, George Lundell,[1] and John Harrison (these were indentured servants).[2] To my daughter, Jean Sisson, Richard Hill,[3] Richard Warfield,[4] John Harrison and John Bennett (indentured servants). To

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1 Or Lunnell. Robert Lunnell, probably a son of George Lunnell, was a co-surety with James Bland for the Estate of Edward Sisson, with Alice Sisson acting as executrix, on October 22, 1698 (Test. Proc. Lib. 18, Fol. 221).

2 The parenthetical note about the indentures was by Christopher Johnston. If true, it is apparent from later records that descendants of George Lunnell had fulfilled their indentures and were prospering. The surety amount for James Bland and Robert Lunnell was 800 pounds, an enormous sum of money.

3 Possibly the same man who was called as a material witness by Thomas Bland in the matter of Nicholas Wyatt's estate, and who later challenged Thomas Bland's status as an attorney.

4 Richard Warfield, along with Thomas Bland, William Brown and Cornelius Howard, were the first vestrymen of St. Anne's Church in Annapolis, Anne Arundel County, upon its formation in 1696. In the same year, James Bland and Michael Brown served as co-sureties in the Administration of Thomas Meech, St. Mary's County, Maryland. John Sisson had transported Richard Warfield, who died in 1703, to Maryland as an indentured servant in 1663. Dawson notes, citing Newman, p. 346.

Elizabeth Sisson 200 Acres, given from my plantation in the island I bought of Mr. Edward Lloyd, residue of the estate to be divided, except 1500 pounds of Tobacco which Robert Leslie owes me, which I give to my daughter, Jean Sisson. My seal ring to my brother, Benjamin Sisson, my other rings to my brother Cornelius Howard.[1] Also, to the latter, my best hat. A 22/ gold piece to Richard Higgins. My Brother, Cornelius Howard, and Richard Higgins, overseers, to look after my wife and children that they be not wronged.'

"Just how Cornelius Howard was brother to John Sisson does not appear.[2] They might have been half-brothers (by the same sisters) or one may have been married to the other's sister. The 200 acres left for Elizabeth Sisson appears to be the tract which is identified in the following in the Rent Rolls of Anne Arundel County:

'Orphans Inheritance: 200 Acres resurveyed 21 May 1661 for Elizabeth Sisson on the South Side of the Severn River at a boundary by the Red Oak on a point by the road (sic) bay.

'This resurvey is by means of two assignments vis: 100 acres William Crouch and 100 acres John Howard, and after resurveyed into one as aforesaid possessors (1707), Edward Hall and William Fieldhall'(p. 55).

"The William Crouch here mentioned was the father of Joseph Crouch who in 1697 mortgaged 'Crouch's Triangle' to Thomas Bland,[3] and you will observe that the first wife of Edward Lloyd was Alice Crouch, but whether there was any actual connection, I do not know. At any rate, it is clear that Cornelius Howard (father of the Cornelius Howard who held Thomas Bland's lands in 1707 for his heirs, is called the brother of John Sisson. Now,

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1 It is unclear whether Johnston or some later reader made this underline on the original letter. Cornelius Howard, probably the son of John Sisson's "brother," was a co-vestryman for St. Anne's Church with Thomas Bland. He also held property that was originally part of "Richardson's Folly" for the heirs of Thomas Bland in 1707. The original Cornelius Howard witnessed the will of Nicholas Wyatt and supplied critical testimony in the dispute between Thomas Bland and Edward Dorsey over Wyatt's estate. Edward Dorsey and Cornelius Howard were appointed judges in Anne Arundel in 1680 (Dawson notes, citing Maryland Archives, Vol. 15, p. 253).

2 See Dawson to Urilla Bland, September 3, 1975, UMB II, pp. 2-3. Dawson, citing from Newman, p. 261, indicates that Cornelius Howard and John Sisson married sisters named Gorsuch; thus, they were brothers-in-law.

3 Sixty acres of land, Anne Arundel Liber WT, No. 1, Folio 18.

> in 1698, when Alice Sisson filed her bond as administrix of Edward Sisson, at St. Mary's County (probably her husband), James Bland was one of her bondsmen.[1] I have nothing further about this Edward Sisson, but he may have been of the family of John Sisson of Anne Arundel County, a nephew, for example, and thus there would be a certain semblance of a connection between Thomas and James Bland. It may be, as you suggest, that the Blands, Howards, Lloyds, Sissons, Crouchs and others all came from the Lower Norfolk County, Virginia. On the other hand, we must bear in mind that the evidence is by no means clear, and that after all these may be no more than an accidental coincidence."[2]

Does the above prove that Thomas Bland was James Bland's father? Admittedly, there is nothing in Christopher Johnston's evidentiary piece that directly confirms it, and although Urilla Bland emphasizes Johnston's first observation of a "certain semblance of a connection between Thomas and James Bland," she has not noted his qualifying statement that "after all, these may be no more than an accidental coincidence."[3]

Nonetheless, in my opinion, Christopher Johnston's evidence of a connection, coupled with the subsequent research of Leslie Dawson and

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1 Alice Sisson died in St. Mary's County, Maryland, leaving a will dated December 12, 1706, proved January 3, 1706/1707. She mentioned a granddaughter named Shonburt, a daughter named Hannah Jackson, and a grandson John Strauten, and sons Robert and William Lunnell. Robert Lunnell was co-surety with James Bland in the estate of Edward Sisson. These sons suggest that Alice Sisson had previously been married to a Lunnel (whose name was mentioned in the will of John Sisson, 1663). This summary was provided in a letter from Leslie Dawson to Urilla Bland, June 11, 1976, UMB II, pp. 22-23. Urilla Bland believed James Bland's wife, Margaret, was named Sisson. She has never proven the belief, but James and Margaret did have a daughter named Alice (Sisson) as well as one named Hannah (Jackson). Also, they had sons named William, and Robert (Lunnell), as did Alice _____ Lunnell Sisson. In turn, Robert Bland, son of James and Margaret, had sons named William, Robert and Edward (Alice Sisson's husband was named Edward). The maiden name of Margaret, wife of James Bland, will be discussed in Chapter VII. It may have been Lunnell or Sisson. The underlined portions were noted by Mr. Johnston.

2 Christopher Johnston to Robert Bland, December 14, 1905.

3 Ibid.

Urilla Bland, corroborates a close relationship, and by elimination, a father-son relationship between Thomas Bland and James Bland. (The basis of my reduction of their relationship to father-son will be elaborated upon in the subsequent discussion about Link III.) One simply cannot ignore the compelling evidence that points to such a relationship.

First, one cannot overlook the extensive connections that appear to exist between Thomas and James Bland, when Christopher Johnston's evidence is joined to the supporting evidence developed by Leslie Dawson and Urilla Bland. As stated before, Maryland had a population of about 25,000 in 1688, not a great density for the area involved, and it is unlikely that there would have been very many discrete families of, for example, Sissons, Howards, Blands, Browns and Lunnells. Rather, the interrelations would have been thick, making it likely that children of the elders continued the prior community contacts that had been developed.[1]

Second, it is evident that Thomas Bland's first stop in the colonies was in Stafford County, Virginia, during 1665-1672, and that he stayed for a time or lived along the Quanticutt River before moving to Calvert or Anne Arundel County. James Bland first appeared in the Maryland records in St. Mary's (the capital at the time) County in 1683, by which time Thomas was already settled in Maryland, but soon after, by 1687, James was in Stafford County, Virginia, where he leased lands at

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[1] One key to understanding these interfamily relationships would be to develop a genealogical study of families such as these. To my knowledge, no such satisfactory study has been done.

the head of the Quanticutt. Though speculative, it is not unreasonable to assume that James left Maryland because of Thomas Bland's recurrent entanglements, which might have created a certain amount of danger by association. Alternately, Thomas' profound irrascibility might simply have alienated his son and driven him away. In either case, Thomas might have at one time described the lands around the Quanticutt and expostulated upon the opportunities there for James.

Third, James himself, much like his father, seems to have been in some kind of constant embroilment (like father-like son). It is a matter of record that he was in a breach of contract suit with Richard Gibson, in which he was the defendant. Further, he evidently defaulted on a debt of 1,000 pounds of tobacco to Abraham Spicer in 1692, and as Spicer's claim said, "the said Bland, having absented himself out of this county...pl'f could not by legal course, recover his said debt."[1] Between his losses to Richard Gibson and Abraham Spicer, both of which came a'cropper about 1692, James must have thought it best to cut his losses and run while he could.

The above information fits neatly into the third set of circumstances that suggest a relationship between Thomas Bland of Maryland and James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia: Having fled Virginia, where did James go? By 1694, he was back in St. Mary's County, Maryland, where he remained apparently until 1701. During this time, particularly during 1699-1701, there is either a suggestion of relationship or remarkable serendipity or coincidence in the movements of Thomas Bland and James Bland. By 1699, Thomas Bland was fully discredited as a lawyer, and time had run out for him in Maryland. As stated before, the

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1 Wilson, p. 291, citing p. 308 of Stafford County, Virginia Records, 1689-1693.

last evidence of Thomas in Maryland was in December 1699. Thereafter, he returned to London where he made out a will on November 25, 1700 and died soon after. James Bland is not mentioned in Thomas' will, whose Maryland property was left to his cousins (nieces and nephews) Sarah and Laurence Pendrill. The Pendrills lived in England. Given Thomas' personality, one must assume that if the Pendrills had retained his confidence, they must be saints, and Thomas would have trusted them extensively, for example, to execute certain matters not specified in his will. In other words, the Pendrills might have been Thomas' conduit through extra-legal channels to any heirs he had in Maryland or Virginia. There would be implicit in such speculation Thomas' fear that his enemies might lay hold of parts of his estate before it ever got to his heirs, if it were handled otherwise.

The possibility Thomas might have feared the dissipation of his estate into hostile hands is reinforced by the nature of law in colonia times. An impeached or banished individual, as Thomas Bland was, often was considered legally dead, and was forced to forfeit property. But under these circumstances, Thomas' heirs could still lay claim to the property within a specified time, and by vowing their loyalty to the Crown, could take the property. When Thomas Bland left Maryland in 1699 or 1700, his property known as "Richardson's Folly" was in the hands of Cornelius Howard, who still held it in 1707, for the heirs of Thomas Bland.[1]

So it appears that parts of Thomas Bland's lands and property were divided between the Pendrills in England, and Cornelius Howard in

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[1] Cf. page 208, note 1, per letter, Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland, September 3, 1981.

Maryland. Further, as previously indicated, Thomas wrote some names on the back of his will, specifying that each of them should receive a gold ring, a cloak and dagger touch that further obscures who the true beneficiaries were.

Whatever machinations lay behind his will, it is known that Thomas' will was proved January 13, 1700/1701. Interestingly, in December 1701, James Bland, identified then as "now living at Poplar Hill in St. Mary's County, Maryland,"[1] purchased 600 acres of land on the south side of and at the mouth of Powell's Creek, in Stafford County, Virginia. Powell's Creek runs north of Dumfries, and lies cleanly between the Quanticutt and Occoquan Rivers (see map on page 206A), the original location of Thomas Bland's arrival in Virginia, and the area where James Bland leased lands in 1687. Urilla Bland's observation that James Bland might have used his father's legacy to purchase the Powell's Creek lands, though speculative, is supported by reasonable deduction, owing to the sequence of Thomas' departure from Maryland (1699), the date of his will (1700), and the date of James Bland's purchase of the Powell's Creek property (1701).[2] There remains the caution that there is no direct evidence that Thomas Bland left any bequest for James. As we shall see in the discussion on Link III, however, the man who was indisputably the father of Thomas Bland of Maryland, likewise left no bequest to his son, who may have alienated his father as he did many others (like father-like son).[3]

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1 Wilson, p. 291.

2 UMB I, pp. 24-25.

3 As his will shows, however, Thomas Bland's father was a wealthy man who left large bequests for his grandchildren and daughter. That he evidently cut Thomas out of his will, leaving him nothing, may be owed in fact that Thomas went to Virginia and Maryland, and may be the reason Thomas lived a "root hog or die" life.

In conclusion, the essence of Christopher Johnston's evidentiary essay was to establish a "semblance of a connection" between Thomas and James Bland through linkages of common land and associates. Unfortunately, there are no land records extant to confirm land ownership of James Bland in Maryland during 1683-1687 or 1694-1701, because land records for this period were destroyed in a fire. But even if one proceeds on the basis of available information, the evidence provided by Urilla Bland and Leslie Dawson that reinforces Johnston's paradigm, elevates the suggestion of a "semblance" of a connection into a near certainty of shared interests in geography, time, land associates and money. In the absence of contrary proof, I am convinced that Thomas Bland of Maryland was the father of James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia.

Link III: Was George Bland of London the Father of Thomas Bland of Maryland?

No, he was not! Beyond question, the father of Thomas Bland of Maryland, whose will was proved in London January 13, 1700/1701, was Thomas Bland of London, whose will was proved January 29, 1674-1675. But this elder Thomas Bland may well have been the son of George Bland of Arundel in Sussex County, England.

If Thomas Bland, who died in 1674/1675, was the son of George Bland, who died in 1648, then Urilla Bland's vision of unity would be complete. The father-son linkage between George and Thomas (the Thomas who was father of Thomas Bland of Maryland), however, is not clear. One may recall that Urilla Bland's vision was conceived by her friend Anna Donigan who matched names between the Thomas Bland, who was mentioned

in the 1618 Will of Adam Bland's son Thomas, and Thomas Bland of Maryland, and concluded that he was the father of James Bland and son of George Bland. Further on in her letter, Mrs. Donigan said to Robert (Linn) Bland, "we shall have to take a little sail over to England."[1] If Mrs. Donigan ever got to England, she would have found Bland men everywhere named Thomas, which is after all, one of the basic Christian names. She would have come away from England sobered by the complexity of the Bland family relationships, not only in London, York and Westmoreland counties, but throughout the country. Add to this the huge gaps in records genealogists can use to prove family lineages, and Mrs. Donigan might have returned to America to rethink her entire idea.

Yet it is entirely possible that the Thomas Bland who made his will on August 26, 1674, and died the following January, was the same grandson of Thomas Bland of London (1558-1618) who was mentioned in the latter's will.

Prior to discussion of the possible connection between George Bland, who died in 1648, and Thomas Bland, who died in 1674, it would be useful to outline two wills and information I have discovered of the family structure of Thomas Bland who died in 1674. The first step would be to quote in full the wills of Thomas Bland, of London (1674/1675) and Thomas Bland, of London and Maryland (1700/1701):

1. Thomas Bland of London, gentleman, 26 August 1674, with a codicil dated 30 October 1674, proved 29 January 1674. To my grandchildren, Jane and Sarah Moyser, two hundred and fifty pounds apiece,[1] to be employed at interest or laid out in buying of several annuities for them. To

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1 Letter, Anna Donigan to Robert L. Bland, 1905-1915.

2 This bequest alone should provide some clue to Thomas' wealth, since one British pound in 1700 was worth about $100 in 1980 American currency. In other words, Thomas left a bequest estimated at about $25,000 each to his granddaughters.

my grandson Joseph Day, fifty pounds, to be employed to put him out to some decent calling when he shall attain to fifteen years of age. To my daughter Sarah Day, the wife of Joseph Day, one annuity or yearly rent charge of ten pounds by the year during her natural life, issueable and payable out of my lands and tenement in Mildenhall in Suffolk. I give to my son-in-law Joseph Day and Sarah, his wife, ten pounds apiece to buy them mourning. I appoint my son Richard Bland and my son-in-law Joseph Day and Sarah, his wife, to be executors and do appoint them to give all my linen to my grandchildren.

2. Thomas Bland of London, merchant, 25 November 1700, proved 13 January 1700. To my sister Sarah Day ten pounds every year during her natural life, she was living with my executors. Ten pounds to Mary Keemish if she shall live to be lawfully married. Ten pounds to _____ Keemish, my sister's grandson. at one and twenty. Twenty pounds each to Sarah and Margaret Bland, my brother's two daughters, if they live to be lawfully married. My cousin Lawrence Pendrill. To Ann _____, the servant in my cousin Pendrill's house, forty shillings. To my said sister, Sarah Day, ten pounds for her mourning clothes at my funeral. To every person whose name is inserted on the back of this will one gold ring of the value of about ten shillings. To my cousin Sarah Pendrill, the wife of Lawrence Pendrill, all my lands, plantations, mortgages, houses, tobacco houses ect., in Anne Arundel County in the Province of Maryland, and also, after the payment or other accomplishment of the said contingent legacies, all my negroes, cattle, horses, mares, household stuff, debts in money and tobacco, ready money, plate, goods and chattels whatsoever, either in England or in Maryland or elsewhere. And I make my cousin Lawrence Pendrill and Sarah, his wife, my sole executors.[1]

Both Waters and Carlisle juxtapose the 1674 and 1700 wills. For purposes of clarity in utility, I shall refer to the two principals as the elder and younger Thomas.

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[1] These wills are found in Carlisle, pp. 100-101; Waters, Vol. I, pp. 814-815, and New England Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, Vol 48 (Jan. 1894), pp. 114-115. The original will is filed at the Church of Latter Day Saints, Salt Lake City, Genealogical Society, Film No. 92425; British Public Records Office, Film #H.K. 2,059, Wills and Administrations at Somerset House, Prerogative Court at Canterbury.

The elder Thomas made no bequest to Thomas Bland the younger, who was undoubtedly his son, and no specific bequest to his son Richard, whom he did however name as co-executor, insuring him a third of his estate after specific bequests, along with his daughter Sarah, married in 1674 to Joseph Day. There is no mention of a wife (suggesting that she was deceased), or of any other children. From the record then, it would appear that Thomas the elder was a widower when he died in 1674, and had three surviving children, Thomas, Richard and Sarah.

Thomas the elder also mentions in his will three grandchildren, Jane and Sarah Moyser and Joseph Day. Although the will may be confusing on the point, further investigation indicates that all three were by his daughter Sarah. Sarah was born in 1642, in St. Dunstan in the West Parish,[1] whose parish records apparently did not survive the 1666 London fire. On September 9, 1662, Sarah secured a marriage license with Christopher Moyser of St. Martin's Parish, Ironmonger Lane, London, a bachelor aged 22. She was identified as "daughter of Thomas Bland of St. Dunstan in the West."[2] By 1674, the time of Thomas the elder's will, Sarah had become Sarah Day, and had an infant son, indicating that Christopher Moyser had been dead since no later than about 1671 (he may have died in the plague of 1665, or the fire of 1666). Sarah Bland Moyser and Christopher Moyser had two children, Jane and Sarah. Jane Moyser, whose birthdate is unknown, married Nicholas Kameys (Keemish) on April 27, 1684 at St. James, Duke Place.[3]

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1 Her brother Richard also is identified as living at St. Dunstan in the West, making it likely the parish residence of Thomas Bland the elder and his children. Entries for St. Dunstan in the West do not appear on the Latter Day Saints Microfiche collection.

2 Foster, p. 952.

3 LDS Fiche Records, London, Moyser. Cf. William Phillimon, Marriages at St. James Duke Place, Vol. 2, 1684-1690.

It is evident from the will of Thomas Bland the younger that Nicholas Kameys and Jane Moyser had a daughter Mary and an unnamed son, "_____ Keemish, my sister's grandson," both of whom were minors. Since Thomas the elder did not mention any grandchildren by his son Richard in his will, though he made Richard his executor, one must assume there was no exclusion, and that Richard's two daughters, mentioned in the will of Thomas the younger, were unborn in 1674, the year in which as we shall see Richard took his second wife. Accordingly, this makes it very likely that Sarah Moyser, the minor child mentioned in Thomas Bland the elder's will of 1674, is the woman who later married Lawrence Pendrill.

Finally, it would appear that by 1673, Sarah Bland Moyser was married to Joseph Day. On January 25, 1673/1674, a son Joseph was born to them in St. Holborn's Parish.[1] Thomas the elder left a bequest to this infant, but rescinded it in a codicil dated October 30, 1674, which indicated that the infant Joseph Day was dead. By the time Thomas the younger made his will, Sarah Bland Moyser Day was still living, but there was no mention of her second husband Joseph Day, indicating he was dead.

In the will of Thomas the elder, his son Richard (called John by Carlisle) was named co-executor of his estate, and according to Carlisle was entitled to one-third of the estate remaining after specific bequests were met.[2] By the time of the will of Thomas the younger, two unmarried daughters of Richard Bland, Sarah and Margaret were left

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1 LDS Fiche Records, London, Day.

2 Carlisle, p. 100.

tentative bequests, but none is left for Richard himself. and Richard is not named as an executor. All of this suggests that Richard was dead by 1700.

Two pieces of information give some clue to Richard's age and birthdate. On March 31, 1664, a marriage license was recorded for Richard Bland, of St. Dunstan in the West, who is identified as a "24 year old silkman" (subsequent information indicates he was 20), and Elizabeth Disbrowe, of Cambridge County, to be married at St. Peter's Church, Paul's Wharf in London. This would suggest that Richard was born about 1644. The fact that the elder Thomas was silent about any children by Richard, but generous with children by Sarah, would suggest that Richard Bland and Elizabeth Disbrowe had no children, or if they did, the children were all dead by 1674.

On February 6, 1674/1675, Richard Bland, who is identified as a 30 year old widower "of the Inner Temple, gentleman," was granted a marriage license with Margaret Marshall, age 15, of St. Dunstan in the West. It is by Margaret Marshall undoubtedly that Richard's two daughters, Margaret and Sarah were born, and at the time of Thomas the younger's will, they were unmarried.

As to Thomas Bland of Maryland, the younger, his age is more difficult to ascertain. If, as is probable, he was the Thomas Bland who leased lands in Essex County called "Maryland Point," having relatives "who were planters in Virginia," as I believe he was, he would be somewhat older than his two siblings, Sarah and Richard. This conclusion is reached because in order to transact a land lease, he would have had to be at least 21 in 1659, and was probably somewhat older. My hunch is

that he was born about 1634. The name of his wife remains a mystery, and aside from his son James, who was probably born shortly before he leased "Maryland Point," Thomas had no known children.[1]

These facts about the children and grandchildren of Thomas Bland, who died in 1674, make it obvious that he is the father of Thomas Bland of Maryland, who died in 1700. That leaves the critical question: was he, Thomas the elder, the son of George Bland? Let us consider a few key points by recurring to information in Chapter III.

George Bland (1589-1648) belonged to the fourth generation of the London progenitors of the James River Bland family. He was born August 10, 1589 at St. Martin's Ludgate parish and was buried at St. Antholin's parish on June 10, 1648. He was the only son born to Thomas Bland (1558-1618) who survived to adulthood. In his will, proved May 15, 1618, Thomas Bland named George his executor and specifically left "my messuages in Shoreditch to my son George and his son Thomas Blande."[2]

I suggested in Chapter III that George Bland married Anne Caunte, a widow of 24 in 1610. Now, if George had a son Thomas living when his father made his will in November 1617, obviously George's son Thomas

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1 James' birth is generally estimated at about 1655, though no one has ever produced evidence of it (Cf. p. 198, note 3). If my calculations about Thomas Bland's age are correct, and he would not likely have been married before age 21, James' age would have to be moved up slightl to about 1656. Thus, he would have been about 27 years old in 1683, whe he first makes his appearance in Maryland. He would have been a small child in the early 1660's when Thomas Bland went to Virginia, transporte to Beach and Hatoff. It is likely that he did not go there with his father, but came later. There is no other Bland among the Beach-Hatoff headrights.

2 Will of Thomas Bland, Carlisle, pp. 135-136; Waters, p. 813; and New England Historical and Genealogical Quarterly, Vol. 48 (1894), pp. 111-112.

would have been a small child and could have been born only in a narrow band of time, from about 1611-1617. Using these parameters, I checked all the Latter Day Saints' birth records, and found only one such father-son combination, a Thomas Bland, born to George Bland at Aldingbourne Parish in Sussex County, England, on August 3, 1612.[1] Two things make it certain that this father-son combination was correct: (1) it is the only such combination in the 1611-1617 time span, and there were no other children by a George Bland recorded in that county;[2] (2) Carlisle states that George Bland "removed to Arundel in Sussex" and this father-son combination occurred in Sussex.

So, Thomas Bland, son of George Bland (1589-1648) was born August 3, 1612. Was he the same man whose will was proved in London on January 29, 1674/1675? There is no solid proof that he was. One piece of indirect evidence suggests he was not. But there are at least five good reasons why the two could be the same.

The negative argument has to do with a question of charity, human kindness and understanding, and sheer odds. In his will made on November 17, 1617, Thomas Bland (1558-1618) made extensive bequests to his son and grandson, as well as to members of his extended family, the living descendants of Adam Bland and Joan Atkyns. He also was generous with his step-children by Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley and Mary Catcher Moody, to whom he also left handsome bequests. In addition, he left bequests to the poor of Sundridge, Kent County, and St. Benet's Church near Paul's Wharf.[3]

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1 See discussion of the Family of Thomas Bland, pp. 28-35.

2 Carlisle states, "George Bland...by...his wife...had one child only, named Thomas." P. 136.

3 See Note 1, p. 249, op. cit.

In his own will made May 16, 1648, George Bland leaves generous bequests for his son and his sister, Elizabeth Bland Holmwood, as well as to various half-brothers and sisters by both Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley Bland, his mother, and Mary Catcher Moody. Also, in a long and pretentious tombstone inscription, he asked to be remembered as the founder of the Alms House called "Bland's House," in Arundel, Sussex County, which was founded in 1631.[1]

Both these wills speak of a large and generous nature by George Bland, as well as his father Thomas. Now, by 1648, George's son Thomas was thirty-six years old and, if he was the same man who died in 1674, George would have had at least three grandchildren, all of whom were minors and too young to have caused any durable animosity. Surely, a man as generous as George Bland appeared to be would have made some mention of his grandchildren, yet there does not appear to be any. Superficially at least, this would seem to suggest that Thomas Bland, son of George, had no heirs in 1648. If true, this fact would throw Urilla Bland's vision of unity into a cocked hat.

Several speculative points mitigate this finding. First, Carlisle, the only source I have seen for George's will, presents the will in abstract form only, and Carlisle sometimes has made transpositional mistakes.[2] George's will may have been misrepresented in Carlisle's work. Alternately, George could have simply omitted the children because they were minors.[3]

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1 Carlisle, pp. 137-138.

2 For example, in referring to the son of Thomas Bland who died in 1674, Carlisle refers to him as John, when it is a certainty that his name was Richard.

3 According to Mr. Dawson, "The fact that a testator in a will mentions his children but does not mention his grandchildren, is not unusua The testator usually assumes that the children will take care of the grandchildren." Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland June 30, 1981.

Mitigation of the negative leads to a discussion of the positive evidence that points, though very tentatively, to the possibility that Thomas Bland, born in 1612, was the same man who died in 1674. First, there is the simple question of age. It is plausible, though not conclusive, that a man born in 1612 could have lived to 1674, thus dying at age 62. Second, there would be a tradition of work in law that seemed to flourish in the descendants of Adam Bland. Thomas Bland (1558-1618) was said by Carlisle to be "in the law," and was probably the Under Sheriff of Middlesex.[1] Although William Bland (1566-1596) was a Skinner, both his sons, William and Samuel, as well as a grandson, Peter, were matriculated at Grays Inn.[2] Thomas Bland (1611-1678), first son of John Bland and Susan Deblere, was an attorney who studied at the Inner Temple, and though their standing in the profession is uncertain, Edward Bland (1613-1652) and Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) may have practiced law in Virginia. Since it is certain that Richard Bland, son of Thomas, who died in 1674, was "of the Inner Temple," one of the Inns of Court, and Thomas Bland of Maryland claimed to have studied for six years in the Inner Temple,[3] these facts would seem to mesh, so that the sons of Thomas Bland who died in 1674 would show a certain similarity with many others in the family of Adam Bland.

Third, there is a question of wealth. There are many other Bland families in London besides the descendants of Adam Bland, but none that I can discern in which there is as much position in society (Adam and

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1 Carlisle, pp. 134-135.

2 Cf. Chapter I, pp. 37-43.

3 It is fairly certain from evidence already presented, that Thomas Bland of Maryland did not study at the Inner Temple, or any of the Inns of Court, but falsely represented himself as having done so. Since there was such a strong tradition of legal practice in his family, Thomas may have felt compelled to fudge it.

Peter were Skinners to the Crown, and were succeeded by Thomas Langhorne, who married one of the daughters of Peter Bland (1557-1625)), and wealth. The family's wealth was evidenced by the wills of Thomas Bland (1618), Peter Bland (1625), and John Bland (1627), as well as by Susan Deblere's complaint to the King in 1633 that she was being hounded by creditors even though she had already paid off 15,000 pounds (the rough equivalent converted from 1633 pounds to 1980 American dollars would be over $1 million.)[1] The family's wealth is further surmised by John the Grocer's activity with the original Virginia Company, and his part-ownership of several commercial ships that sailed to Virginia, and by the vast land acquisitions in Virginia by John the Grocer's sons, John, Edward and Theodorick. Thomas Bland, in his will of 1674, left specific cash bequests of 570 pounds (about $57,000, converted from 1674 pounds to 1980 dollars). In addition, he left various annuities, plus lands in Suffolk County. As far as one can ascertain, although there were many separate families of Blands in London during the 17th century, the family of Adam Bland and his descendants was the only one with that kind of wealth and concomitant social position.

Fourth, when Thomas Bland (1558-1618) made his will, he left "to son George my messuages, ect. in the parishes of St. Peters and St. Benet's near Paul's Wharf."[2] George, according to Carlisle, left all his property in St. Benet and St. Peter's near Paul's Wharf to his son, Thomas. The will of Thomas Bland in 1674 makes no mention of these lands and it appears that he lived in St. Dunstan in the West. Thomas'

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1 See p. 74, note 132.

2 Cf. p. 249, note 1.

son Richard, however, obtained license to marry Elizabeth Disbrowe in St. Peter's Church, Paul's Wharf.[1] Also, George Bland was said by Carlisle to have had considerable real property in London, Lincoln, Essex, Hereford and Sussex Counties. Thomas Bland leased lands called "Maryland Point" in Essex in 1659.[2]

Fifth, and finally, aside from James Bland, there is no other evidence of a sustained effort by any English family named Bland, except Adam's, to settle in Virginia. This, coupled with the certainty that Thomas Bland, who died in 1700 in London, was the Thomas Bland of Maryland, and the certainty that the Thomas Bland who died in 1674 was his father, increases the possibility that one of these Thomases was the person who leased his lands in Essex County in 1659, having relations in Virginia who were "planters." Also, it increases the chances that Thomas of Maryland was related to the Adam Bland family of London and had a cousin relationship to the James River family of Virginia.

These indirect indications, though tentative, outline a strong possibility for a parent-son link between George Bland of London, and Thomas Bland of London who died in 1674, and also by extension, Thomas Bland who died in 1700, and James Bland who died in Stafford County, Virginia in 1708. It is neither proved nor disproved that the Thomas Bland who was born to George Bland in 1612, and the Thomas Bland who died in 1674 were the same man. But the arguments for the two dates belonging to the same man do strongly outweigh the single negative

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1 Foster, p. 139.

2 Carlisle, p. 137.

argument. Thus, Link III of Urilla Bland's vision of unity is strongly suggestive, but only tentatively complete. I believe, but cannot conclusively prove, that Thomas Bland who died in 1674 was the son of George Bland, who died in 1648, and his grandson was James Bland who died in 1708 in Virginia.

If one accepts the linkage between Thomas Bland of London who died in 1674, and George Bland of London who died in 1648, then Urilla Bland's vision of unity is complete. It is my conviction that further research on the question, particularly in English and Maryland sources, will validate the connection. One should not, however, accept these conclusions at the expense of what appear to be other alternatives to the parentage of James Bland. The following three alternatives potentially bear upon the question of James Bland's parentage, but in every case, would very likely sever him from the above deduced line of descent from Adam Bland.

Paths Not Taken

Peregrine Bland

Only a modest amount of information about Peregrine Bland is available, but since he had an unusual name,[1] it seems safe to assume that there is considerable reliability in linking together the scant information available, into a cursory biographical portrait. His birthdate

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[1] St. Peregrine was the patron saint of the incurably ill. Tobias Smollet found some humor in the name, which he gave to the hero of his story, Peregrine Pickle (1751).

TABLE XIV

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF THOMAS BLAND OF LONDON: SEVEN GENERATIONS

(1)	Robert or Roger Bland (dates unknown)	_____.
(2)	Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594)	Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596)
(3)	Thomas Bland (C. 1558-1618)	Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley (1549-1593)
(4)	George Bland (1589-1648)	Anne Caunte
(5)	Thomas Bland (1612-1674)*	_____, about 1633

(6-1)	(6-2)	(6-3)
Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700), married (1) _____, about 1654; and (2) Damaris Wyatt in 1674.	Sarah Bland (1642-living in 1700), married (1) Christopher Moyser in 1662; and (2) Joseph Day, about 1672.	Richard (1644-was dead by 1700), married (1) Elizabeth Disbrowe (C. 1645-1673), by whom no issue; and (2) Margaret Marshall (1659-?)
Presumed Child of Thomas Bland by (1): (7-1) James Bland (C. 1655-1708), married (1) _____; and (2) Margaret _____.	Children of Sarah Bland by Christopher Moyser: (7-1) Jane Moyser, who married Nicholas Kameys and had at least 2 children: (a) Mary Kameys, called "Mary Keemish" in Thomas Bland's will, and (b) Sarah Moyser, who married Lawrence Pendrill. By Joseph Day, Sarah Bland Moyser had one son, Joseph (1673-1674).	Children of Richard Bland by Margaret Marshall: Margaret and Sarah, dates unknown.

* George Bland (1589-1648) had one son, Thomas, born in 1612. He is assumed to be the same individual who died in London in 1674, and who was the father of Thomas Bland "of Maryland," who in turn is presumed to be the father of James Bland (C. 1655-1708).

TABLE XV

Seven Generation Line of Descent (Assumed) for the Bland Family's Settlement in Maryland and Virginia

(1) Robert or Roger Bland (dates unknown) = _____.

(2) Adam Bland (C. 1528-1594) = Joan Atkyns (C. 1530-1596).

THE JAMES RIVER BLANDS

(3) John Bland (1572-1632) = Susan Deblere (1590-1664)

(4) Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) = Anna Bennett (C. 1639-1687)

(5) Richard Bland (1665-1720) = Elizabeth Randolph (?-1719)

THE STAFFORD COUNTY BLANDS

(3) Thomas Bland (1558-1618) = Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley (1549-1593)

(4) George Bland (1589-1648) = Anne Caunte (dates unknown)

(5) Thomas Bland (1612-1674) = _____.

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700) = _____.

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = _____ and Margaret _____.

is unknown, as well as his place of birth, and extant English parish records yield no information about his birth. But it is known that he matriculated from Emmanuel College in 1614.[1] He entered Emmanuel February 26, 1613/1614. Characteristically, young men were about age eighteen when they entered college, therefore it is safe to assume that Peregrine was born about 1596. He died by drowning sometime in 1650,[2] and his will was proved January 19, 1650/1651;[3] therefore, Peregrine's dates were about 1596-1650.

The first direct evidence of Peregrine's presence in Virginia is his witnessing a will for Joseph Ham in 1638.[4] He was listed as a member of the House of Burgesses for Charles River County in 1639-1640.[5] In 1642, Peregrine was granted 1,000 acres of land on the north side of the Pyanketanke River, in what later became Middlesex County but was then Charles River County, or York County. In the same year, another man was granted 350 acres of land in Charles River County for transporting seven persons to Virginia, including Peregrine Bland.[6] It is likely that Peregrine came to Virginia about 1635 with enough money soon after to support the transportation of the twenty persons, for whom he was entitled to his 1,000 acre grant. The name of his wife, or when he married her is not certain, but it is known that he had a

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1 Venn and Venn, p. 164.

2 Dawson notes, citing Lantz, Maryland and Virginia Heritage, Vol. 3, p. 199, and The Baltimore Sun, October 21, 1906, cf. UMB II, p. 22. Letter from Leslie Dawson to Urilla Bland, June 11, 1976.

3 Nugent III, p. 25.

4 WMQ (L), Vol. I, p. 77.

5 Stanard, p. 60.

6 Nugent I, pp. 132, 221.

daughter named Hope Bland, who evidently died about 1687.[1] She was sole heir to his property when he died in 1650, suggesting that his wife was already dead at the time of his death. The fact that his daughter was sole heir to the property appears to rule out any adult male heirs, thus apparently eliminating the possibility that Peregrine is the parent of James Bland of Stafford County.

It is known, however, that in 1658, one William Spencer held legal guardianship within York County (presumably, York County, Virginia which was formed from Charles River County in 1642) of "sons-in-law (stepsons)" Peregrine and Thomas Bland.[2] What this means is hard to decipher. Possibly, the Peregrine and Thomas mentioned were brothers to each other and either minor sons of Peregrine, Senior, or sons of a brother. But why would William Spencer be identified as a stepfather or father in law? One clue to the question's answer may lie in the will of Richard Spencer, made in London on March 17, 1645/1646.[3] Spencer made a bequest to Sarah and Hannah Bland, daughters of his sister Katherine Spencer Bland. He also gave fifty pounds each to "the children of William Spencer, son of my said brother Jarrard Spencer."[4] This William Spencer then would have been a nephew to Richard Spencer and his sister Katherine Spencer Bland. His appellation of step father or father in law may have been misleading. All of the brothers Richard Spencer mentioned were deceased, and William Spencer may simply have been the oldest surviving male, thus taking guardianship for (in the will) unspecified minor children.

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1 Nugent II, p. 386, and III, p. 25.

2 VMHB, Vol. 2 (1893-1894), p. 198.

3 Waters, pp. 514-515.

4 Ibid.

This would make it plausible, though by no means certain, that Peregrine Bland senior was married to Katherine Spencer, who died sometime before 1645, and had by her at least three daughters, Hope, Sarah and Hannah, and perhaps two sons, Peregrine (his father's namesake) and Thomas. If this construction is correct, Peregrine senior's two sons would have been minors when he died, and his daughter Hope would have been the only adult child, thus would have been Peregrine's sole heir. Alternately, Hope could have been a child of Peregrine's by a former marriage. Linkage of Peregrine's family to the James River family remains problematical. There is nothing in the London parish records to show Peregrine's birth, and the London records are fairly complete respecting the Adam Bland family. It is marginally possible, of course, that the son Thomas who was a minor under William Spencer's guardianship in 1658, could have been Thomas Bland of Maryland (he could be as old as 15 and still be under guardianship). Whether a young man born in 1643 or thereabouts could show up in Maryland between 1666-1672, successfully pass himself off as a student of the Inner Temple and set up a law practice, is subject to question. Problems abound in this construction. And suffice it to say, such a young man could not have been the father of James Bland of Stafford County.

Thomas Bland of London, Scrivener

On October 2, 1666, Thomas Bland, who styled himself a citizen and Scrivener, made his will. He left to his wife, Mary, who was his sole executrix, all his property on Broad Street in the St. Peter the Poor Parish, which houses he said he had purchased from his wife before their marriage. He also left her property in Middlesex County and his leases

of warehouses on Broad Street, his shop at the Royal Exchange and two houses, one at Bell Alley and the other at Old Fish Street. Thomas was parsimonious with a sister Anne, who had married one Thomas Lee, and their son. Thomas Lee's "unfaithfulness" had caused him to suffer a great loss of estate during the great fire of London that year, so he and his family received only twenty shillings each.

Thomas lived on for another year, finally dying about December 1667.[1] The will is interesting for several reasons. First, Thomas left a small amount to a sister Anne and her family, and the balance to his wife Mary and "her heirs forever." There is no mention of any children by Thomas Bland and Mary.

Second, the considerable research that has gone into this particular couple[2] has shown beyond a shadow of reasonable doubt that Thomas' wife Mary was born Mary Bennett. Her life is linked to the Bland name in three ways. First, her marriage to Thomas. Second, she was born at Hart Street, St. Olaves Parish in London, placing her in strikingly close proximity to the family of John Bland (1612-1680, fourth generation) and his wife Sarah Greene. Third, her father Edward Bennett was the uncle of Richard Bennett of Nansemond County Virginia, who was the father of Anna Bennett (1639-1687), who married Theodorick Bland of Westover (1629-1671, fourth generation).[3]

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1 Carlisle, p. 99. Thomas' will was proved December 14, 1667.

2 The best treatment of the question is Rupert Taylor, "The Parentage of James Day (died 1700) and Wife Mary of Isle of Wight County Virginia," Tylers Quarterly, Vol. XVI (1934-1935), pp. 239-242. Cf. WMQ (1) Vol. 7 (1902), pp. 211-15, 251-53.

3 One should note in Chapter III that Thomas Bland (1558-1618) married Elizabeth Harrison Yeardley, whose mother's maiden name was Margaret Bennett.

In tracing the lineage of Mary Bennett, the following is of importance. Edward Bennett, Mary's father, and his wife Mary Bourne were married about 1628, and had six children, all baptized at St. Olaves, Hart Street:[1]

1. Elizabeth, baptized May 31, 1629. Elizabeth was buried at St. Olaves, August 27, 1636.

2. Silvester, baptized October 25, 1630.

3. John, baptized February 17, 1631/1632. John was buried at St. Olaves, October 3, 1650.

4. Mary, baptized between November 1632 and July 1633. (Dates deduced from baptismal dates of antecedent and subsequent siblings. Mary's baptism does not appear in the St. Olave's parish record but other evidence makes it certain she is the child of Edward Bennett and Mary Bourne.) Mary died sometime after 1701.

5. Anne, baptized March 13, 1633/1634. Buried May 10, 1634.

6. Jasper, baptized July 3, 1635. Buried April 11, 1690.

Mary Bourne Bennett was shown by the St. Olaves parish registers to have been buried "a widow" on April 10, 1660. The date of Edward Bennett's death is not certain, but it is assumed to have been sometime before 1660. On April 8, 1663, a partition of fifteen hundred acres of land was made in Isle of Wight County Virginia, with 750 acres each awarded to Mary (Bennett) Bland and her sister Silvester (Bennett) Hill (see map on following page). Part of the land was awarded to Richard Bennett, and Theodorick Bland (1629-1671), son-in-law to Richard Bennett acted as attorney in the transaction.[2] The land was partitioned

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1 Taylor, p. 240, and St. Olaves, Hart Street Registers, 1563-1700, pp. 39, 40, 42, 44, 45, 167, 183.

2 Theodorick Bland (1629-1671) was the attorney in this matter. Some writers have transposed Theodorick's name to Thomas, creating a false impression that Thomas of Maryland was the attorney in the matter. During my visit to the Virginia State Library, October 14-16, 1980, I studied the original land grant and found the attorney's name was Theodorick.

June 1 or September 30, 1664, and patented as distinct properties on May 21, 1668, several months after the death of Thomas Bland, the London Scrivener.[1] The land patent to the deceased Thomas Bland and Mary Bland carried the additional phrase, "& to the heirs of the said Mary," a conditional statement similar to the one in Thomas Bland's will of December 14, 1667. These two similar statements make it unlikely that Mary had any children by Thomas Bland. Rather, as the most diligent researcher of the question puts it, she very likely married before Thomas Bland, John Day of Fulham, Middlesex, probably soon after her eighteenth birthday. John Day made his will on September 15, 1657, leaving monetary bequests to four children: John, James, Elizabeth and Anne.[2] To his wife, he also left money and all property in Stepney Middlesex, to dispose as she should please. This suggests the source of property that Mary Bennett Day Bland sold to her husband Thomas before their marriage.[3]

On September 12, 1668, Mary Bennett Day Bland married Luke Cropley, a widower of about 35, in London. The marriage notice estimates Mary's age as about 36.[4] In his own will of January 9, 1700/1701, James Day, her son, adds a codicil, calling her "ever honored mother, Mrs. Mary Cropley."[5] This would indicate that Mary was still living in 1701, about

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1 Nugent I, p. 444, and II, p. 38. Taylor, p. 240.

2 Taylor, p. 241.

3 Ibid. James Day, who called Mary his mother, in his will proved January 9, 1700/1701, and also called Silvester Bennett Hill his aunt, held property in St. Peter the Poor Parish, London, situated on Broad Street. These facts persuasively validate the argument of Rupert Taylor, and invalidate UMB II, pp. 5-6, which argues that James Day married Mary, daughter of Mary Bennett Bland. As stated, there is no substantial proof of any children born to Mary Bennett and Thomas Bland.

4 Foster, p. 359.

5 Blanche A. Chapman, Wills and Administrations: Isle of Wight County: 1647-1800, Vol. 1 (1938), p. 59.

68 years of age. How long she lived afterward is unknown. What is germane to the question here about the parentage of James Bland is the persuasiveness of Rupert Taylor's argument that she had no children by Thomas Bland. This eliminates Thomas Bland and Mary Bennett Day as parents of James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia.[1]

If Thomas Bland, the Scrivener, is eliminated as the father of James Bland, however, there are several circumstantial reasons why he could eventually be shown to be the son of George Bland (1589-1648). First, there is the matter of the proximity of Mary Bennett's family to the Adam Bland family on St. Olaves Hart Street, specifically, Adam's grandson John Bland (1612-1680). This kind of proximity could create the kind of conditions necessary for a marriage. Second, Thomas Bland, son of George Bland (1589-1648) had an uncle Lawrence Lownes (the notorious) who was, according to Carlisle, a Scrivener by trade.[2] Notwithstanding the odium with which Lownes was held by the family of John Bland the Grocer, he might have remained in good favor with other branches of the family, and could have had some influence on this Thomas Bland's trade. Third, there is a thick juncture of relationships between Mary Bennett Day Bland Cropley, through her parents, and Anna Bennett, daughter of Richard Bennett and wife of Theodorick Bland. The fact that Theodorick Bland served as the attorney in the partitioning of the land left by Edward Bennett to Mary and her sister Silvester argues at least plausibly for a blood or marriage relationship of some kind. Such a relationship could be that Theodorick Bland was the uncle of Mary Bennett's husband and also related to her by marriage.

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1 It is doubtful that either Thomas Bland or Mary Bennett Day Bland Cropley ever lived in Virginia. Mary simply owned land there.

2 Carlisle, pp. 130-33.

All of these factors offer at least suggestive evidence of a connection between Thomas Bland, the Scrivener, and the Adam Bland family. If proved to be correct, however, it should be noted that the hypothesis advanced by Urilla Bland, and accepted in this chapter by the author, that James Bland of Stafford County descended from Adam Bland through his son Thomas, would be invalidated, for it seems beyond question that Thomas, the Scrivener, had no children by his wife Mary Bennett Day.

Further, I am convinced that a meticulous reconstruction of the several Bland families in London during the 16th and 17th centuries would reveal that Adam Bland had close relatives, perhaps brothers and sisters, who lived in London during his life, and perhaps also originating from the Orton-Sedbergh families. For example, while Alice Garmain was eliminated as a wife of Thomas Bland (1558-1618), there is an entry in the St. Gregory's parish record that shows a Thomas Bland marrying Alice Garmain on July 12, 1590. Similarly, there are several deaths of relatives reported in the home of Peter Bland, names which do not fit his family. In all, there are a number of distinct families of Bland in London during the 17th century. Clear delineation of relationships might answer the question of the parentage of Thomas Bland, the Scrivener, as well as shedding light on the possible linkage between the London family and James Bland.[1]

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[1] Discovery of several allied families of Bland in London, who could be linked to the Sedbergh-Orton family, would strengthen the case for James Bland, who died in Stafford County, being a descendant of the London family. J. F. Fuller, "Pedigree of the Family of Bland of Sedbergh, Yorkshire" (1913) filed in U.S. Library of Congress, establishes frequent use of the male name James in the family.

James Bland of St. Andrews Penrith, Cumberland County, England

As laborers and workers from the outlying counties and parishes of England poured into London during the 17th century, some found jobs, some ended up on the poor rolls, and some, invariably, found their way to the American colonies, contracting with ship captains and representatives of merchants and planters in the new world. Those who ventured to the new world between 1682 and 1692 were first filtered through a registration process, their names and other occupations recorded in some twenty-one large tomes known as the Lord Mayor's Waiting Books. Such an entry on March 17, 1684/1685 records two young men aged 22 who contracted for a four-year indenture in the American province of East New Jersey to Mr. William Dockwra. One of these was named James Bland, from St. Andrews Penrith Parish, in Cumberland County. This James identified himself as a "glazier and plummer."[1] A researcher interested in the Bland family would immediately ask the following two questions: Who was this James Bland? Was he James Bland of Stafford County?

In the 17th century, Cumberland County was a maritime province in the extreme northwest of England on the borders of Scotland, flanked on the south by Lancaster, Westmoreland and York Counties. As were most of the areas in the far north of England, it was low in population density, consisting primarily of small scattered towns that supported an agricultural base. Penrith was a small town with a hearth (home) count of 378 in 1664, located in southeast Cumberland County along the northern border of Westmoreland County. The chief economic pursuit in Penrith in the 17th century was sheep farming.

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1 Michael Ghirelli, Ed. A List of Emigrants from England to America: 1682-1692 (Baltimore: 1968), pp. vii-xi, 8, 36.

Penrith, as well as much of the southern Cumberland and northern Westmoreland county area, was devastated by a series of plagues between 1587-1640, including typhus, smallpox, influenza, famine, malnutrition, and its concomitant death by starvation.[1] This information points to a continuing atmosphere in which disease and death was an extremely common occurrence and a grim part of the everyday lives of residents of Penrith during the late 16th and early 17th centuries. Typically, the population was not mobile in those times. For the most part, residents of a particular place were born, raised, married there (particularly women, who were traditionally married in their own parish, although they might move to the groom's home after marriage), raised children, and died. In one town comparable to Penrith, Easingwold, in the North Riding of York County, one researcher estimated that between 1644-1813, sixty-seven percent of all marriages occurred within the parish, and only three percent occurred with a partner who lived more than twenty miles away.[2] Yet these residents of outlying towns and counties, particularly the young men, were the flotsam that was attracted inexorably to London, which offered work, adventure and in some ways, a processing point for other destinations: London, and from there, sometimes Virginia.

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1 Andrew Appleby, "Disease or Famine: Mortality in Cumberland and Westmoreland, 1580-1640," Economic History Review, Vol. 26 (1973), pp. 403-431, passim.

2 Bessie Maltby, "Easingwold Marriage Horizons," Local Population Studies, Vol. 2 (1969), pp. 36-39.

Records for Cumberland County are hard to come by. but the Latter Day Saints' Collection shows the following family structure for four generations of Blands in St. Andrews Parish, Penrith, spanning the 17th century[1]:

The first generation on record is represented by James Bland, dates unknown, who on June 4, 1599, married Alice Pattison. He had a son, James Bland, who was born on an unspecified date in 1600 and married Susan Cooke on December 16, 1620. This James Bland and Susan Cooke are the family's second known generation and they had eight children which comprised the third generation:

Third Generation:

1. Thomas, baptized November 28, 1621
2. James, baptized January 10, 1623/1624
3. Susan, baptized January 29, 1624/1625
4. Ann, baptized May 12, 1627
5. Henry, baptized February 15, 1630/1631
6. Agnes, baptized July 19, 1632
7. George, baptized July 3, 1636
8. John, baptized at an unspecified date in 1639

Some of these children, especially the first three, may have died in the severe famine in Penrith of 1623/1624. What happened to the others is uncertain except that the last two sons, George and John, grew to adulthood, married, and had families. George Bland in 1658 married Grace _____. This couple had between 1659 and 1675, a total of seven children (fourth generation), including Susan, baptized March 31, 1659; James, October 31, 1661; William, February 25, 1664; George, April 12, 1666; Margaret, January 7, 1669/1670; Elizabeth, October 5, 1671; and Jane, November 1, 1675.

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1 LDS Microfich Collection, Cumberland County. As always, the shape of families is limited in these records, which do not indicate dates of death or burial.

John, the younger brother of George Bland (third generation), appears to have married one Margaret Walton on February 12, 1660/1661, but had no children by her. When she died is uncertain, but about 1676, John remarried to Julia _____, and by her he had five children, including Margaret, baptized October 25, 1677; Thomas, November 28, 1678; Miles, August 8, 1680; Edward, May 11, 1685; and Arthur, March 7, 1689/1690.[1]

There are some compelling correspondences in this information. First, since Penrith kept fairly complete parish records, it is all but certain that James Bland (fourth generation), second child and first son of George and Grace Bland, born October 31, 1661, is the same man who was recorded as a 22-year old in the Lord Mayors Waiting Book, on March 16, 1684/1685. For the sake of argument, suppose that this James Bland departed London soon after the entry was made. He would reach his destination of East New Jersey probably by May or June 1685. Suppose he started to work for William Dockwra right away. He could have worked off two years of his indenture by the summer of 1687, after which some change in his relationship with Dockwra, e.g., his escape, his purchase of his freedom from the indenture, or Dockwra's trading him, could have resulted in his leaving New Jersey, and appearing in Stafford County, Virginia by October 1687 to lease lands from Richard Gibson.[2] This is not an altogether incongruous assumption, as Map X showing the geographic relationship of East New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia, indicates.

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1 Latter Day Saints Microfiche Record, Cumberland County.

2 This might explain the presence in Maryland in 1710 of an Arthur Bland, who was surety for a will in St. Mary's County July 5, 1710. Arthur was a son born to John Bland in St. Andrews Penrith, 1689/1690.

Still, there are three dogs in this manger. First, the St. Andrews Penrith registers show that a James Bland married one Isabel Lowther on October 18, 1691. The James Bland in Stafford County, Virginia, had a wife named Margaret, and three sons who were over twenty-one at the time of his will in 1708. If James Bland of St. Andrews Penrith was back in the parish in 1691, for whatever reason, and married this woman, then the possibility that James Bland of St. Andrews Penrith, born 1661, was the same James Bland who made his will in Stafford County, Virginia in 1708, is null.

Second, records in St. Mary's County indicate that a "James Blann" witnessed a will in February 1683/1684. Unless this is a James Bland that has no relationship to anything else, this fact is problematical. It would then require logically that James Bland was in Maryland by late 1683 (old style), returned to London sometime in the intervening year and then contracted himself as an indentured servant to Dockwra the following March. This is possible, but unlikely. James would have been racing back and forth across the Atlantic, and up and down England, with his own identity in hot pursuit after him.

Then too, there would be the necessity to explain the compelling set of circumstances that would bring this poor laborer so often into interlocking relationships with association of Thomas Bland of Maryland. In that case, one would have to stand poor Christopher Johnston on his head and agree that after all, those fascinating interrelationships between James and Thomas Bland, were "no more than an accidental coincidence."[1]

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1 Christopher Johnston to Robert Bland, December 14, 1905.

These three obstacles make the possibility of this James Bland of St. Andrews Penrith, Cumberland County, being the same man who died in Stafford County, Virginia in 1708, seem rather awkward, but as an alternative possibility it should not be ruled out. For the present, however, one must conclude that explaining away those three obstacles would overwhelm logical thinking.

In conclusion, one must recur to the basic dimension of Urilla Bland's vision of unity, that Adam Bland is the common ancestral grandfather of all the Blands in America who descend from the colonial Virginia stock. My conclusion is that with the help of Leslie Dawson, Urilla Bland has proved the parentage of James Bland and probably, but not conclusively, the critical link between George Bland (1589-1648) and Thomas Bland who died in 1674. Descendants from James Bland of Stafford County, Virginia, should now be able, with some assurance, to trace their lineage back to Thomas Bland who made his will in London in 1617/1618, and by deduction to say that the two major Virginia Bland families are descended from Adam Bland.

PART FOUR

THE BLAND FAMILY OF STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA

CHAPTER VII

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND: SEVENTH GENERATION

Prologue: Two Cousins

So, if one accepts Urilla Bland's vision of unity between the two major Bland families in Virginia, as I do, this story boils down to a tale of two cousins. Richard Bland (fifth generation, 1665-1720) was the founder of the 18th Century James River Blands in the southern part of Virginia, while James Bland (seventh generation, C. 1655-1708) was the founder of the 18th Century family of Stafford County, Virginia Blands. Both their lives bridged the 17th and 18th centuries, and both had families which multiplied prolifically in the new world. Both, according to the vision of unity, descended from common ancestral grandparents, Adam Bland of London and his wife, Joan Atkyns. Both had parents who struggled uniquely and against bitter odds to create a viable bridgehead for settlement and continuity in the new world. The struggle by Richard Bland's mother, Anna Bennett, to hold onto her husband's property along the James River, against the persistent claims of John Bland (fourth generation), his wife, Sarah Greene, and son, Giles Bland, was told in Chapter IV. It is intriguing to ponder what would have happened had Sarah Greene ultimately prevailed in her claims against Anna Bennett. As it was, Giles Bland's partial success greatly diminished the Bland family's land holdings in Virginia. Quite probably, Anna would have been forced to return to London with her three sons, who would have grown up as Englishmen (one did settle and die in England anyway), and probably would have had a slight impact upon the American

18th Century. As it was, the James River Blands had a substantial and respectable family history in Virginia during the 18th century, which is told in Chapter V. There seemed to be, however, only a small amount of movement beyond 18th century Virginia by this family. As a result, with only a few exceptions, the James River family seems to be historically moribund in an 18th century experience.[1]

This is far from true in the case of the Stafford County Blands. The story of Thomas Bland of Maryland (sixth generation, C. 1634-1700), as well as his assumed son James Bland, has been told in Chapter VI. The present chapter takes up with James during the last years of his life, when he had moved to Stafford County, Virginia, in 1701 or 1702, and settled on 600 acres of land along Powell's Creek near what was later Dumfries, Virginia. James' children remained in the Virginia Northern Neck, and historical traces of them are found in the Stafford, Prince William, Fairfax, Fauquier, Loudon arc of territory along the Potomac. James' sons died between 1744-1762. However, his grandchildren and later descendants were living during the critical last half of the 18th century, when, following the American Revolution, vast land grants were awarded in the west. Many of these later Blands remained in Virginia, but many others migrated to North Carolina, South Carolina, the Kentucky territory, and to the region that later became West Virginia. Afterward, there seems to have been a move, with Kentucky as a kind of staging area or clearinghouse, to the mid-West, particularly to southern Indiana. And from these (then) western sites, the family moved kaleidoscopically out across the country as the west

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[1] Notwithstanding this, many persons have traced matrilineal descent from this family.

was settled during the last half of the 19th century. It was a prolific and wide-ranging family with strong roots that have persisted until the present day.

The Family of James Bland: Seventh Generation

Little is known of James Bland from 1701, when he purchased 600 acres of land along Powell's Creek in Stafford County, Virginia, until he died in 1708. All that is known is that he returned to St. Mary's County, Maryland, to post bond of 100 Pounds Sterling in his capacity as administrator of the estate of Robert Woodward.[1] It has generally been assumed that James was a lone Bland of his generation in Stafford County, but this may not be so. Susannah Bland (1609-), fourth generation daughter of John Bland and Susan Deblere, who married Thomas Pearson, settled and died in Stafford County, Virginia. Susannah was dead long before James Bland came to the county, but her children, especially a daughter who married into the West family,[2] were living there and may have had an active cousin relationship to James. Also, though no linkage has been made of them to later generations, there was in 1710 an Arthur Bland living in St. Mary's County, Maryland,[3] and in 1704, there was a Henry Bland living in King and Queen County,[4] Virginia.

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1 Maryland Test. and Proc., Lib 19C, Folio 139, cited in UMBI, p. 41.

2 See discussion in Chapter III, pp. 55-56.

3 See discussion in Chapter VI, p. 252, esp. note 2.

4 Malcolm Hart Harris, Old King and Queen County History (1977), pp. 309-310, 553.

There is no evidence that these were members of the James River family, and they were too old to have been James' children.[1] They could have been siblings, or cousins, of James Bland. Whether further substantiation of these speculations could be accomplished is unknown.[2] If so, it could further complicate the assumption that all or most of the 18th century Blands in the Virginia Northern Neck descend from James Bland, and should remind all genealogists that everything is tenuous, nothing is ever really settled, and that as surely as in the field of scientific research, new discoveries can shatter the most cherished myths or beliefs.

When he died, James was married to a woman named Margaret _____. No one has ever determined her maiden name. All that is known of her is that in 1723 she was still living on the widow's third of property left her by her husband. In that year, a registrar for the quitrent rolls for Overwharton Parish entered her name but made no charge of her for the 200 acres she owned, writing only, "can't hear of her."[3] Urilla Bland has suggested that Margaret's maiden name may have been Sisson, Woodward or Harrison. In Chapter VI, I suggested that her maiden name may have been Lunnell or Lundell or Sisson.[4] But these ideas remain speculative and do not have enough evidentiary power behind

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1 James Bland's will of 1708 mentions neither Henry nor Arthur.

2 Arthur and Henry were names given to some of James Bland's known descendants during the 18th century.

3 George S. King, Registers of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia, 1723-1758 (1961), p. 147.

4 Cf. Chapter VI, p. 223, note 1.

them to suggest even the pretense of an indirect conclusion. Urilla Bland's inquiry in the Genealogical Helper for March 1973, produced no result.[1] My reasons for offering Lunnell or Lundell as a possibility have to do with the fact that Alice Sisson, for whom James Bland stood bond in 1698, was formerly a Lunnell by marriage, and her children bore names strikingly similar in pattern to those of James Bland and Margaret, as well as their children and grandchildren.[2] Also, in Maryland, there was obviously a close relationship between the Blands, Sissons, Howards and Lunnells, or Lundells. Urilla Bland's hunches about Margaret's maiden name derive basically from the same factual closeness in family relationships. Additionally, however, Urilla Bland's great-grandparents, Thomas Bland (1793-1867) and Mary Newlon (1796-1879) had a daughter named Mary Sisson Bland (1832-1886). No one in Urilla Bland's family has ever been able to figure out the source of Mary's middle name.[3] Urilla Bland adhered to her assertion that Margaret was a Sisson until 1976, when Mr. Leslie Dawson, after analyzing the will of Alice Sisson dated 1706/1707, discovered that such a conclusion was unwarranted.[4] A genealogy of the Sissons, dated June 25, 1971, and provided Urilla Bland by the Maryland Historical Society, discusses a New England family by the name of Sisson but sheds

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1 UMBI, I, p. 40.

2 In fairness, however, it should be noted that the monotonous repetition of William, James, Robert, John and Thomas in this family, none of them unusual names, and in a time before the use of middle names was common, presents the most conscientious genealogist with a bewildering array of conflicting evidence which is almost impossible to reconcile with certainty.

3 Cf. discussion in Chapter VIII, pp. 385-386; cf. p. 223, note 1.

4 Leslie Dawson to Urilla Bland, June 11, 1976, cited in UMBII, pp. 24, 40.

no light on the Virginia/Maryland Sissons. In the end, Margaret _____ Bland's maiden name remains unknown. The researcher who finally establishes her maiden name will have made a substantial contribution to Bland genealogy.

James Bland made his will December 22, 1708 and it was probated March 9, 1708/1709. An inventory of James Bland's estate showed him to be a fairly well-off farmer. His worldly goods included 25,000 pounds of tobacco, including 8,100 pounds in cash, seven cows, one bull and a mare, all valued at 7,200 pounds of tobacco, and the balance in miscellaneous furniture and household items.

Because the language used by James Bland in his will, as well as the property dispensation, is critical to understanding later family structure, it is reprinted in full:

> In the name of God, Amen, I, James Bland of the County of Stafford in the Colony of Virginia, being sick of body, but of sound and perfect sense and memory, praise be therefore given to Almighty God for it, do make and ordain this my last will and testimony in manner and form, as followeth:
>
> First and principally, I commend my soul to Almighty God who gave it, hoping in and by the merits, death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ, to have free pardon and remission of all my sins and to enter into eternal life, and secondly, I commit my body to the ground to be decently buried at the discretion of my excr,s hereafter mentioned.
>
> Item: My will and mind is, that all my debts be fully satisfied and paid. Item: My will and mind is, that my loving wife, Margaret, shall fully possess my now dwelling plantation, and the land from the mouth of the creek to the first branch above the said plantation, during her natural life, and after her decease to fall to my loving son, Robert Bland and his heirs lawfully begot. Item: I give and bequeath to my loving son William Bland, 150 acres of land beginning at the upper side of the above said branch and so running up the creek, the full complement of 150 acres aforesaid to him and his heirs lawfully begot. Item: I give to my two sons, James Bland and John Bland, all of the reversion of my land, the said tract beginning where my son William leaves off, and so running to the head of my line, and to be equally divided, between them, when my sons shall

arrive to the age of twenty-one years old, to them and their heirs lawfully begot, and in case any of my sons should die without issue, then to fall to the survivors to be equally divided amongs't them.

Item: My will and mind is, that my loving son, William Bland, may have the tuition and bringing up of my eldest daughter Alice, and my youngest daughter Hannah. Item: I desire that my loving son, James Bland, may have the tuition and bringing up of my daughter Patience and my daughter Ellen, and my youngest son Robert, my daughters till they come to 18 or married, and my son till he is 21 years. Item: My will and desire is, that after my debts are all paid, then what is left of my moveable estate shall be equally divided between my loving wife, Margaret, and my eight children, every one to have an equal share alike, when they shall come to age as aforesaid. Item: I make and ordain my two sons, William Bland and James Bland, to be my whole and sole executors of this my last will and testament. In confirmation whereof, I have set my hand and fixed my seal, this 22nd day of December 1708.

James his X Bland (Seal)

...at a court held for the said county the 9th day of March, 1708, this was proved in court to be the last will and testament of James Bland...[1]

Several points about James Bland's will are notable:

1. Although James left his wife Margaret the home he lived in, and the normal widow's third of his land (200 of the 600 acres he bought in 1701), he did not name her executrix of his estate and entrusted her with no tuition for his minor children. This could mean several things. She may not have been competent in business, or she may have been mentally incompetent.[2] She may have been the mother of James' minor children only, son Robert and the four daughters.

2. After Margaret's death, her land was to revert to Robert. This could well mean that Robert was Margaret's natural son, and if so,

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1 Will of James Bland, Stafford County Will Book Liber Z, 1699-1709, Reg. C5071

2 Leslie Dawson to Charles Bland, June 30, 1981.

would suggest that the four daughters also were her natural children, but that the three elder sons, William, James and John, were James' children by a prior marriage. If that was the case, however, why would these older sons have been entrusted with tuition of the younger children, rather than Margaret? This arrangement, coupled with the observation of the Overwharton Parish registrar about Margaret in 1723, "can't hear of her,"[1] reinforces the observation that Margaret was the mother only of the younger children, and was also mentally or intellectually incompetent. It leaves open the possibility that James Bland was married sometime before to another woman, who would have been the mother of his older children, and that perhaps he married her in England, prior to migrating to Virginia.

3. Contemporary legal practice stipulated that "tuition" was applicable to children under age 15 for boys, and 13 for girls. Thus, Robert and his four sisters were born sometime between 1693 and 1708. On the other hand, William and James were born no later than 1687, and John, who was old enough to receive land and too old to be placed under tuition or to have custodial responsibility for the younger children, was probably born in 1688. Thus, there was a gap of at least five years, and probably more, between the older three sons and their siblings. The three older sons were probably the only surviving children of James' earlier marriage.

4. Robert, the youngest son, was entitled to receive 200 acres of land upon his mother's demise, whereas ironically, the older brothers were given immediate possession of smaller portions of land. William

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[1] Cf. p. 259, note 1. A similar sentiment is expressed by Caroline Beall Price, Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928), pp. 48-54. Mrs. Price's information is copied almost exactly in Ruth Thayer Ravenscroft, Royal and Magna Charta (1959), pp. 104-107, who cites Price as her sourc

was given 150 acres, and James and John received 125 acres each. Thus, Robert was in a slightly favored long-run position, one that could have led to jealousy among his elder brothers, not an insignificant note in light of later developments to be discussed in succeeding chapters, particularly in Chapter X, which examines the life of, and descendants of Robert Bland.

Thus, a composite picture of James Bland is suggested: He was born about 1655,[1] and lived in America, shuttling back and forth between Maryland and the Virginia Northern Neck, from about 1683 to 1708. He settled in Stafford County, Virginia, during 1701 or 1702 after purchasing 600 acres of land there. James died late in 1708. At the time of his death, he was married to a woman named Margaret, for whom he made generous provision for her wellbeing, but did not entrust to her the business of his estate or the education ("tuition") of his minor children, which he left to his older sons. This suggests that James was married sometime before to another woman, who was the mother of his older sons.

The next three chapters trace the growth of the families and descendants of these children of James Bland through about 1900. First, however, it would be useful to delineate some of the geographic parameters that are germane to the growth of the Bland family.

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1 As far as I can tell, the first person who fixed the 1655 date was Homer Jones. Cf. letter, Homer Jones to Nel Ford, March 4, 1958. Like most genealogists writing to a client, Mr. Jones kept source information close to his chest. One must learn to live with such frustration. To my knowledge, the older writers never speculated on James' birthdate, but I am intrigued by the thought that Jones had substantial evidence to back up his statement. Such source information, naturally, would be invaluable in the quest for definitive knowledge about James Bland's parentage.

County Formation in the Virginia Northern Neck: 1660-1760

Charles River County was one of the original eight counties formed in 1634 from the Hundreds of the defunct Virginia Company. In March 1642/1643, Charles River was renamed York County.[1] Over the next two decades the shape of York County changed several times, fragmenting into New Kent County, Gloucester County, and Northumberland, which in turn was fragmented into Lancaster and Westmoreland counties by the early 1650's. In 1661, Westmoreland formed its western area into the Potomac Parish, which in 1664 became Stafford County.[2] The character of Stafford remained constant then for sixty-six years. By 1700, the principal parish in Stafford was Overwharton, which by 1724 was populated by some 650 families.[3]

Prince William County was formed in 1730 and 1731 from parts of Stafford and King George Counties. The original Prince William comprised the present-day county of the same name, as well as what would become Fairfax, Fauquier, Arlington and Loudon Counties. In 1742, the fragmentation of Prince William began. That year, Truro Parish became Fairfax County and was cut off permanently from Prince William. In 1744, within Prince William, Dettingen Parish was formed from Hamilton Parish, with one of its churches being at Quantico, near Dumfries.[4]

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1 Cf. p. 76B.

2 Workers of the Writers' Program of the WPA, Prince William: The Story of Its People and Its Places (1941), p. 24.

3 Ibid.

4 Op. cit., p. 30.

TABLE XVI

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND OF STAFFORD COUNTY, VIRGINIA: THREE GENERATIONS

6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700) = 1) _____, about 1654
2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674

7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = 1) _____
2) Margaret _____

By James' assumed first marriage:

(8-1)

William (C. 1686-1744), married (1) _____, and (2) Catherine Key.

(8-2)

James (C. 1687-1756) married Mary _____ Gwatkin.

(8-3)

John (C. 1688-1762) married Patience _____.

By James' assumed second marriage:

(8-4)

Robert Bland (C.1703-1760), married Jane _____.

(8-5)

Alice Bland (dates unknown, James' eldest daughter).

(8-6/7)

Patience Bland and Ellen Bland. Ellen Bland married William Davis (C. 1695-1756)

(8-8)

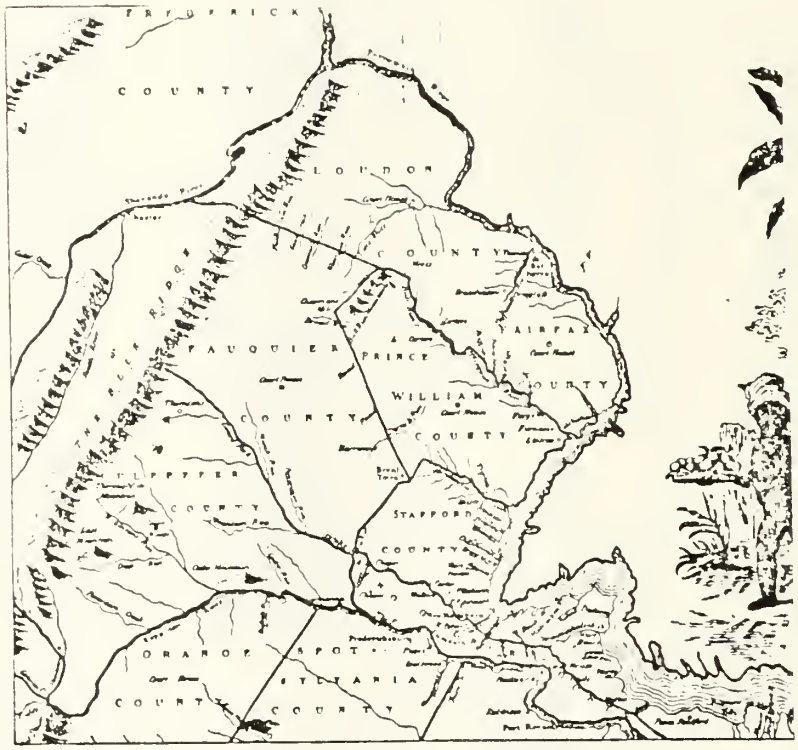
Hannah (dates unknown; identified as James Bland's youngest daughter).

Note: James Bland may have married twice. If so, children by his first wife would likely have been William, James and John, the older brothers, while his younger children, son Robert, daughters Alice, Ellen, Patience and Hannah, would have been born to his second wife, Margaret _____. The older sons were born not later than 1688. The younger children were born between 1693-1708, and probably later than 1693. Although the sequence of the younger children is not certain, it is not likely that Robert was born before any of the daughters. Robert was evidently still a minor in 1723, when Margaret, widow of James, still held title to property willed to her by her husband in 1708. He is listed above as (8-4) simply as a convenience.

-------- Assumed line.

MAP VII

Northern Virginia 1770. Following the Organization of Loudon County in 1757, and Fauquier County in 1759



JOHN HENRY, 1770.

Source: H. C. Groome, Fauquier During the Proprietorship (1927, reprint 1967).

Permission to reprint this map was granted by the Genealogical Publishing Company, Inc., Baltimore, Maryland.

Robert Bland (ninth generation), however, received a grant of 300 acres in the 96th District of South Carolina for his service as a private in the war. This was one of several reasons why Virginians began to migrate in huge numbers during the 1780's, pouring across the Blue Ridge mountains in great numbers to settle in areas where civil law was primitive, but individual opportunity seemed great. Kentucky, which was officially a county of Virginia until 1792, but had been a separatist hotbed since the end of the Revolutionary War, was one destination, and in fact for the Blands, was a kind of clearinghouse for further westward movement.

It appears that the children of James Bland (seventh generation) remained in Virginia, but their children and grandchildren moved out in substantial numbers. The earliest migrations appear to have been into the eastern part of North Carolina, into New Hanover, Duplin, Chatham, Randolph and Pitt Counties, and to the Edgefield County area in South Carolina. Subsequently, however, these migrants and their children moved again, joining the Blands who were moving into Kentucky directly from Virginia. Gathering in Kentucky, reuniting and mingling in a myriad of familial arrangements, these Blands then moved out to Pennsylvania, Ohio, Missouri, Illinois, and especially by the 1830's, to Greene County in the southern part of Indiana,[1] which was located near the Kentucky-Indiana border. For example, information in Chapter IX will show that in a row of houses enumerated in the 1850 census, there were Blands who originated from Virginia and North Carolina, and had in common:(1) that they had spent some time in Kentucky; (2) some were descendants of William Bland and some of John Bland (eighth generation); (3) all were descendants of James Bland, who died in Stafford County, Virginia in 1708. From these midwestern locations, of course, the Bland family spread so that it is found today in every state in the union.

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[1] Some went directly to Indiana.

The Truro Parish/Fairfax County land consisted of about 963 square miles, that began at the juncture of the Potomac and Occoquan Rivers, and continued westward into the northwestern corner of present-day Virginia. In 1757, Fairfax County was divided and the western territory was called Loudon County.[1] Then in 1759, Fauquier County was formed from Prince William. The map of Virginia on page 264B shows the close proximity of all these counties. In the discussion about the family of James Bland that follows, the reader will see references not only to Stafford County, but to Prince William, Fairfax, Fauquier and Loudon as well as to Truro, Overwharton, Dettingen and Hamilton Parishes. The above should put such references in perspective. Territorially, the locations are in close proximity. The Bland family, with its various branches which lived in the area, included the original James Bland (seventh generation) and his wife, Margaret, his children, and their descendants.

The Westward Expansion

Many Bland ancestors served in the war of the American Revolution and were rewarded in various degrees with land grants, some in the state for which they fought, some in the new western territories. The number of acres awarded depended upon many factors, including the rank of the recipient. Theodorick Bland (seventh generation), as noted in Chapter V, was a Colonel who raised his own regiment and served between 1777-1780, for which he was awarded about 13,500 acres in Nelson County, Kentucky.[2]

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1 James Head, A Comprehensive History and Description of Loudon County, Virginia (1908), pp. 107-109.

2 Cf. Chapter V, p. 180, note 1.

CHAPTER VIII

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATION

The Founder

William Bland (eighth generation), eldest son of James Bland of Stafford County,[1] first appeared on the records in Maryland, where on February 8, 1709/1710, he affirmed the accuracy of a statement made by his father, as administrator of the account of Robert Woodward in St. Mary's County, Maryland.[2]

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[1] The following four chapters are devoted to the descendants of James Bland's sons, William, James, John and Robert, in that order. Very little is known of James Bland's four daughters. One of them, Ellen, married William Davis, a business associate of William and James Bland (eighth generation). In a fragmentary draft provided me by Mr. Leslie Dawson, he notes that: "In 1756, William Davis died in Prince William County, leaving a will which has been lost, naming his wife, Ellen Bland Davis, and their son, Isaac Davis, as executors. In addition to their son Isaac, William and Ellen Bland Davis had sons, William and Joshua. It is not known if they also had daughters." Mr. Dawson cites as his authority, Prince William County Order Book, 1755, p. 220. Mr. Dawson descends from the Bland family by this marriage of Ellen Bland and William Davis. Information supplied by Mrs. Graham (Castelloe Bland) Denton, of Charlotte, N.C., indicates that there was a Patience Bland, who about 1753 married John Smith, of Somerset County, Maryland, and that they later lived in Prince William County, Virginia, where a child Joshua Smith was born about 1760. The sheet supplied by Mrs. Denton does not cite the source of the information except to say that it came from Maryland archives. If true, this Patience might very likely be a daughter of one of the four sons of James Bland who died in 1708.

[2] UMB-I, p. 41, citing William Asquith, Dep, "Com Y" Inventorys and Accounts, Lib 31, Folio 37-38.

William Bland was born about 1686,[1] and probably died in 1744.[2] The reader will recall that in his 1708 will, James Bland left 150 acres of land to William, calling him "my eldest son," and leaving 200 acres to his wife Margaret, and 125 acres each to James and John. William and his brother James appear to have been very close in age and in business, as well as personally. They also had a close relative, Francis Stone, who figures in this story. There are many extant transactions that document the lives of William and James, and also document the growth of their personal estates. It is probable, I believe, that as elder brothers, William, and to some extent, James, controlled the family's assets, a fact that may have influenced the migration of many of their own children as well as the children of their younger brothers to North Carolina, South Carolina and Kentucky.

By 1722, William Bland was well established as a landowner on the Occoquan in old Stafford County, and much of the land he had accumulated was in Hamilton Parish, which included what later would become Dettingen Parish.[3] William was a middle-class farmer of comfortable estate. He

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1 William's birthdate is cited in UMB-1, p. 57, and elsewhere. Miss Bland cites a response to Query 9758 in The Genealogical Helper, October 1969. The respondent was Mrs. Lee R. Herrington, of Westfield, New Jers who estimated William's age at 1686. Since he was the eldest of two adult brothers named in his father's will of 1708, he could not have bee born later than 1686. Most likely he was born before that date.

2 Dettingen Parish Vestry Book, October 14, 1745, assigns 33 pounds of tobacco to a son of William Bland for "2 leaves overcharged last year," suggesting that William Bland must have died in 1744.

3 Federal Writer's Project, Prince William County, Virginia. The Story of Its Places and Its People (1941), p. 26. Cf. UMB I, p. 60, citing George H.S. King, Marriages of Richmond County, Virginia (1964).

and his brother James also became part-owners in a mining business. He was prosperous and well off, but lacked the investment capital[1] that stood behind the James River Bland family during its settlement period.

In 1710 and 1712 William, along with his brother James and their neighbor and in-law, Francis Stone, acquired 354 and 257 acres of land at Cock Pit Point Neck, near Powells Creek, on both sides of the Occoquan River.[2] In 1735, William and James made a legal adjustment of boundaries concerning the 1712 purchase, which evidently resulted in no loss for either William or James.[3] Assuming equal division of the property, William and James would have gained one-third or some 204 acres each in the transaction. William added 295 acres on June 6, 1717, also on both sides of the Occoquan, and probably close to the 1710-1712 purchases.[4] In 1718, William and James Bland and Francis Stone acquired an additional 360 acres, at an unspecified location. In a subsequent deed to John Linton, dated 1727, James Bland stated that the property had been divided three ways, suggesting 120 acres each between the three parties. Subsequently, James Bland removed himself from ownership in this transaction, apparently transferring his share

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1 This would be especially true if, as assumed by Urilla Bland and this writer, Thomas Bland of Maryland was William Bland's grandfather. As discussed in Chapter VI, Thomas appears to have been alienated from James Bland, and besides, his extremely hard fortunes during his latter years in Maryland probably left him with little to pass on to children and grandchildren.

2 Northern Neck Virginia, Deed Book 4, pp. 48, 50; and Prince William County Deed Book B, p. 493.

3 Ibid.

4 Northern Neck Virginia Deed Book A, p. 203.

of the land to Stone.[1] Also, between 1722 and 1726, James and William gained an additional 72 acres between them in the area of Stafford County that became Prince William, probably in Hamilton Parish.

During 1725-1726, William Bland and William Davis, a brother-in-law,[2] gained an additional 571 acres, 376 located on the main run of the Occoquan, on a site called Cooper's Cabin Branch,[3] and 195 on the north side of the Occoquan adjoining lands held by the Bland brothers and Francis Stone.[4] Logically, William would have received about 285 acres of this land, but it was not added to his total land possession because he later gave the land to his brother-in-law, James Key, and Key's wife Mary, "for love."[5]

In a transaction dated July 11, 1727, William Bland acquired 300 acres on both sides of the Occoquan near his previous acquisitions.[6] With the precaution that the land records available do not reflect the

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1 Information taken from a list of deed summaries supplied the author by Albert Hunter, State College, Pennsylvania. The 1718, 1727 transactions may relate to a division of land between the two Blands and Stone in 1724, near land owned by the two Bland brothers' father James, seventh generation. Stafford County Deed Book, 1722-1728, pp. 144 and 146.

2 See p. 267, note 1.

3 Stafford County Deed Book A, p. 203.

4 Stafford County Deed Book B, p. 7.

5 UMB-1, pp. 60-61, citing King, Marriages of Richmond County, Virgin no page number cited. William Bland was a brother-in-law of James Key, through his marriage to Catherine Key.

6 UMB-1, pp. 59-60, citing Northern Neck Deed Book B, pp. 88, 89. Cf information sent the author by Albert Hunter, which indicates that William received only 166 acres in 1727, due to a clerical error that was not corrected until 1739.

true extent of transactions in the Northern Neck area, and assuming equal division of the joint transactions between the Bland brothers and Francis Stone, it would appear that William Bland, between 1708 and 1727, had accumulated approximately 1,246 acres.

On September 16, 1730, William and James Bland acquired 570 acres on the Occoquan. In 1739, James Bland made a declaration at the Prince William Court, clarifying an erroneous recording and requesting that the entire 570 acres, which were located near Champs Mill Branch, be renewed in the name of William Bland.[1] The final known land transaction involving William Bland was a deed to him of 312 acres at an unspecified place in Prince William County in 1742.[2] This would bring William's lifetime land acquisition to about 2,128 acres, about one-third the size of the estate of Richard Bland, of Prince George County (1665-1720) when he died.[3]

Various other traces show that William was interested in county politics and also that he was a businessman of sorts. In 1736, William Bland and Burr Harrison supported Thomas Osborne (a relation by Osborne's daughter's marriage to John Bland (ninth generation)) in a contested county election.[4] In 1741, all four of the Bland brothers, William,

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1 UMB-1, p. 60, citing Virginia Land Grants, Book C, p. 72, and Book E, p. 54.

2 "Blands in Virginia," entry for November 30, 1742, and Virginia Calendar of State Papers, Vol. 1, p. 137. A later document, Prince William County Deed Book T, March 27, 1776, pp. 48, 235, shows John Bland (ninth generation, son of John Bland, C.1688-1762), deeding 100 acres of the 312 total in the 1742 transaction, to his son Osborne. This is often cited, along with a John, Junior's absence in the will of John Bland (eighth generation) as presumptive evidence that John Bland (ninth generation) was a son of William Bland (C.1686-1744). Contrary evidence indicates that John Bland may have been the father of John Bland (ninth generation) who married Margaret Osborne, and the grandfather of Osborne Bland (tenth generation). These matters will be discussed in Chapter X, pp. 420-425.

3 See Chapter V, pp. 141-143.

James, John and Robert, were voters for the Prince William seats on the House of Burgesses.[1] On the business side, in 1732 William and James Bland, along with Lewis and Thomas Reno and James French, combined with John Creel to form an enterprise for mining copper, tin, lead, iron and metals. The first five parties paid Creel to survey land in Prince William County. When William died, his place was taken by his sons James and Moses Bland. By 1752, the business had gone sour and the Renos sued the Blands. In 1754, the suit was dismissed and the Renos were forced to pay court costs.[2]

Other records show that in 1740, William Bland served as surety in the inventory of the estate of his old friend and relative, Francis Stone, and as surety for the will of David Dodson.[3]

William Bland married Catherine Key on February 6, 1716/1717. Urilla Bland estimates that Catherine was born in 1694, but the date of her death is unknown.[4] Catherine was the daughter of James and Mary Pannill Key, of Richmond County, Virginia. James Key died in 1698, and Mary Pannill Key remarried to one Francis Stone in 1700, who had two

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1 Dawson notes, citing Boogher. William G. and Mary Newton Stanard, The Colonial Virginia Register (1965), p. 115.

2 "Blands in Virginia," entries for 1732, 1752-1753, and 1754.

3 Dorman, Prince William Wills, 1734-1744, pp. 57-58, 91-92.

4 UMB-I, p. 58, and UMB-II, p. 1. Urilla Bland refers to her as Catherine Kay, rather than Key. Inasmuch as Catherine's parents were Keys, I will, for the sake of narrative simplicity, refer to her that way. Cf. Urilla Bland to Charles Bland, letter undated, but about August 15, 1981.

sons. One son was Francis Stone, who was born in 1681 and died in 1740. As indicated above, this younger Francis Stone was deeply involved in land transactions with William and James Bland. Thus, Francis Stone, the younger, was a half-brother of William Bland's wife, Catherine Key, and they were technically brothers-in-law. Francis Stone married Esther _____ who, after his death, married George Colvert.[1]

One of the chief researchers for William Bland and his descendants was Mr. Milton Wilson (1886-1956), of Bartow, Florida, who traced his descent through William's eldest son, James.[2] Mr. Wilson believed that William Bland had three verified sons: James, Moses and Thomas, and possibly a fourth named William.[3] The respondent to the 1969 query about William's family identified four sons: James, Moses, Thomas, and John.[4] Thus, three sons are generally agreed upon, and a fourth and fifth, William and John, are surmised.[5] No daughters are mentioned. Since Catherine was supposedly born in 1694, however, it seems unlikely that she would have stopped childbirth after three or four sons, so

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1 One should note that several of William Bland's descendants in the late 18th, early 19th century, were named Francis, possibly in tribute to Francis Stone, who was very close to the Bland family.

2 For a brief essay on Milton Wilson, see William Alderman Parker, The Aldermans in America (1957), pp. 328-329. Hereafter, this source will be referred to as Parker.

3 Wilson, p. 283.

4 UMB-1, pp. 57-58. Cf. Query 9758, Genealogical Helper, October 17, 1969, and response.

5 See discussion about John Bland, p. 271, note 2.

there must have been other children, daughters whose identity was obscured by marriage, or children of both sexes who died young.[1]

In estimating the ages of the identified sons, it is important to note that Moses was identified as an executor in his father's estate.[2] Wilson and others believed, correctly I think, that William's eldest son James was the co-executor of his father's estate, with Moses.[3]

This leads to a further observation that James Bland and Moses Bland (ninth generation) must have been the eldest of William Bland's sons. These facts in turn would indicate that Moses Bland was the first child in William Bland's marriage to Catherine Key, but that James Bland was born to William in an antecedent marriage, to a woman whose identity is unknown.

Although Bland researchers owe Milton Wilson a great debt of gratitude for the thoroughness of his work, I believe his work is incorrect at this point. Wilson knew that William Bland married into the "Key" family. Had he known that William married Catherine in 1716/1717, however, he could have quickly ascertained that James Bland (ninth generation) who moved to New Hanover County, North Carolina, could not have been Catherine's son. He would have known this from the fact that at least two of the eleventh generation grandchildren of James Bland (ninth generation) had to be aged at least twenty-one in 1775, when James'

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1 The lack of knowledge about William's family illustrates a key point in reading the next several chapters. The names James, William, John, Robert and Thomas were favorite names for the Stafford County family. They were passed on from generation to generation, and became prolific. In many cases, the writer about this family must assign actions and events to names according to what logic dictates, remaining uncertain whether he is in fact accurate. It is truly a humbling experience to attempt to weave a whole out of such fragmentary evidence.

2 Moses' status as William's executor is borne out by several documents summarized in a paper entitled "Blands in Virginia," provided the author by Albert S. Hunter.

3 Ibid. Citing Cf. Prince William Deed Book I, July 24, 1761, p. 86.

TABLE XVII

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BLAND OF STAFFORD-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700)	=	(1) _____ about 1654 (2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674
(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708)	=	(1) _____ (2) Margaret _____
(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744)	=	(1) _____ (2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717

By William's First Marriage:

(9-1)

James Bland (C. 1707-1774), married Mary Buchanan

By William's Marriage to Catherine Key:*

(9-2)

Moses Bland (C. 1718-1799), married Jane Wiggonton

(9-3)

Thomas Bland (C. 1719-1788), married Jane _____ Smith

----- Assumed.

* James, Moses and Thomas are the proven sons of William Bland (eighth generation). There is an unresolved dispute among genealogists of the family about whether John Bland (ninth generation), born about 1725 in Stafford County, Virginia, and who died in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1795, was the son of William Bland, or of his brother John Bland (C. 1688-1762). The family of John Bland (C. 1725-1795) and the issues about the dispute over his parentage are discussed in Chapter X. It has also been suggested by some genealogists that William Bland (eighth generation) and Catherine Key had a son named William. He might also have had a son Richard.

son William (tenth generation) made his will.[1] If James (ninth generation) had been the natural son of Catherine Key, he could have been born no earlier than late in 1717. Thus, three generations (nine through eleven) would have had to be compressed into a chronological span of some 37 years, which is impossible. My hunch, and I stress that at this writing it remains that, is that William Bland (eighth generation) was married at a fairly early age, probably by 1706. His first wife's identity remains unknown. By this theory, James Bland (ninth generation) would have been born about 1707. The other two proven children of William Bland were by his marriage to Catherine Key. They were Moses and Thomas, born, as will be shown about 1718 and 1719 respectively.[2]

James Bland of New Hanover County, North Carolina (Ninth Generation)

If the calculations of the past few pages are correct, then James Bland (ninth generation) was the eldest child of William Bland by a marriage that was antecedent to William's marriage to Catherine Key. James was born about 1707 in Stafford County, Virginia, and died in

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1 Two eleventh generation children of William Bland (tenth generation) who died in 1775, served as his executors. Thus, they had to have been born by 1754. Cf. subsequent discussion.

2 This concern has been discussed with Urilla Bland, and Albert and Mildred Hunter, who come to basically the same conclusion as my own about Wilson's work. It should also be noted that it would have been a very logical extension of applicable British custom regarding primogeniture and entails for William, the older son of James Bland (seventh generation) to have married young rather than waiting until he was past thirty.

New Hanover County, North Carolina, probably about 1774.[1] In his study of the Bland family in New Hanover and Duplin Counties, Milton Wilson asserted that James Bland came to New Hanover County sometime between 1757-1760.[2] How Mr. Wilson decided upon these dates for James' migration does not appear. Possibly, the dates followed from the assumption made by Wilson that in acting as executor for his father's estate, where James' name was involved in litigation up to at least 1754, James was necessarily in Prince William County, Virginia. First, however, it is by no means certain that James had to be physically present. A 1754 entry in the matter of the Renos vs. the Blands, for example, shows the court of Prince William ordering a dedimus to examine James Bland, the elder, and his wife, about the character of "James Jr." and Moses Bland, joint executors of William Bland.[3] This would suggest to me that James was absent from Prince William County at the time. I believe that Mr. Wilson's estimate should be pushed backward in time to at least October 7, 1747, when Maguess Cowan, of New Hanover County, North Carolina, sold 200 acres on the Black River to James Bland.[4]

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1 James may have lived in New Hanover or Duplin, whose boundaries were delineated in a series of boundary moves along the Black River, Rock Fish Creek area, where James Bland had property. His will was probated in 1774 in New Hanover County. He is clearly identified in various legal transactions as late as 1771, suggesting that his death shortly preceded probation of his will.

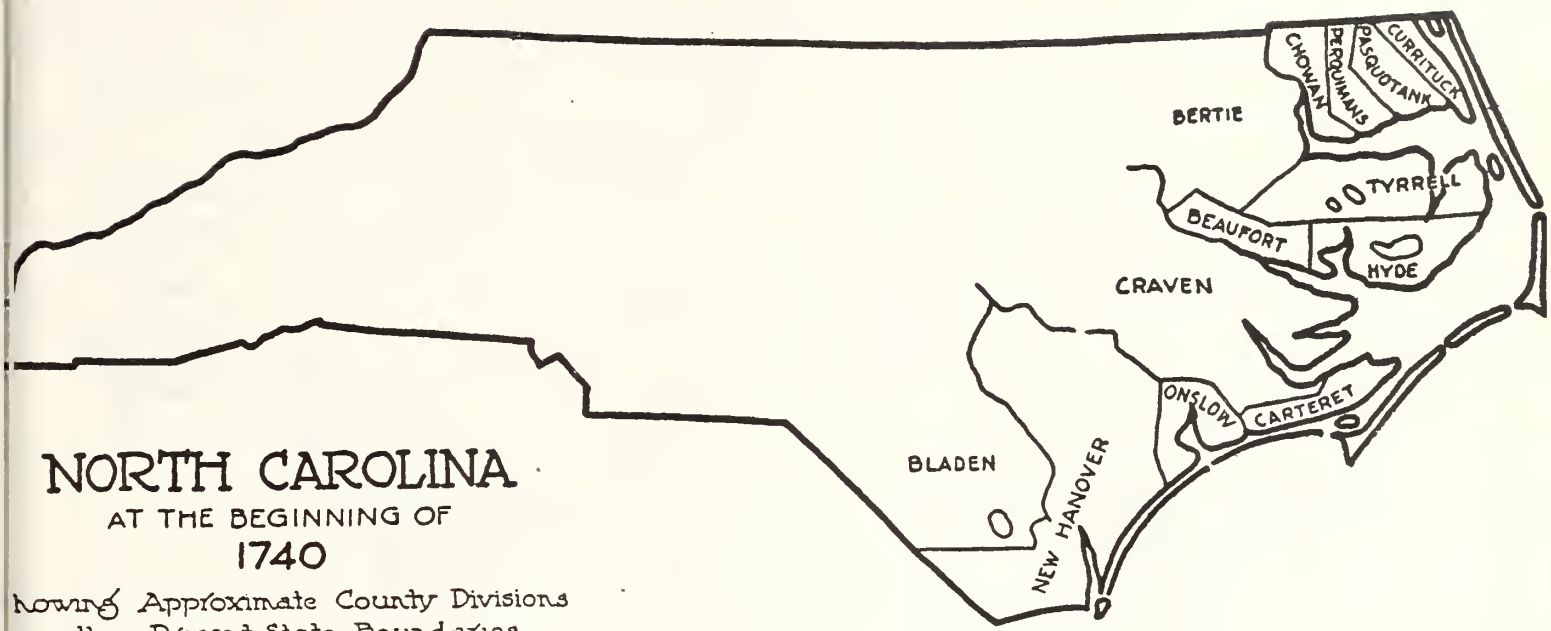
2 Wilson, p. 284.

3 "The Blands in Virginia," p. 2.

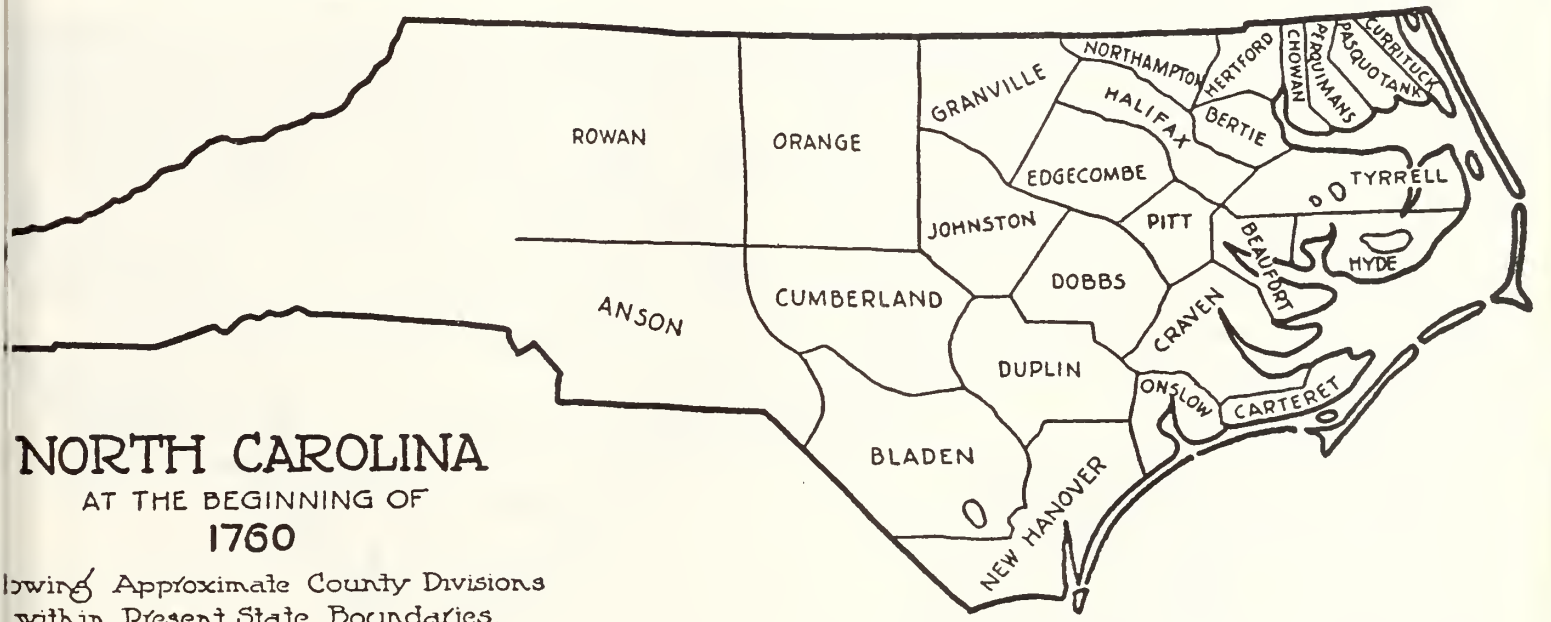
4 New Hanover County Deed Book E, October 7, 1747, p. 33. Cf. New Hanover County Deed Book F, p. 325, December 21, 1770, cited by Jessamine James in a letter to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980, p. 21. This incredibly long letter encapsulated most of the information Mrs. James provided in her "Bland Family Court and Bible Records" (undated) filed at the LDS Library, Salt Lake City, Utah.

MAPS VIIIAND IX

NORTH CAROLINA AT THE BEGINNING OF 1740-1760



NORTH CAROLINA
AT THE BEGINNING OF
1740
lowing Approximate County Divisions
within Present State Boundaries.
Map by
L. Polk Denmark



NORTH CAROLINA
AT THE BEGINNING OF
1760
lowing Approximate County Divisions
within Present State Boundaries.
Map by
L. Polk Denmark

Source: David Leroy Corbett, The Formation of North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943 (Raleigh: N.C., Third Printing 1975).

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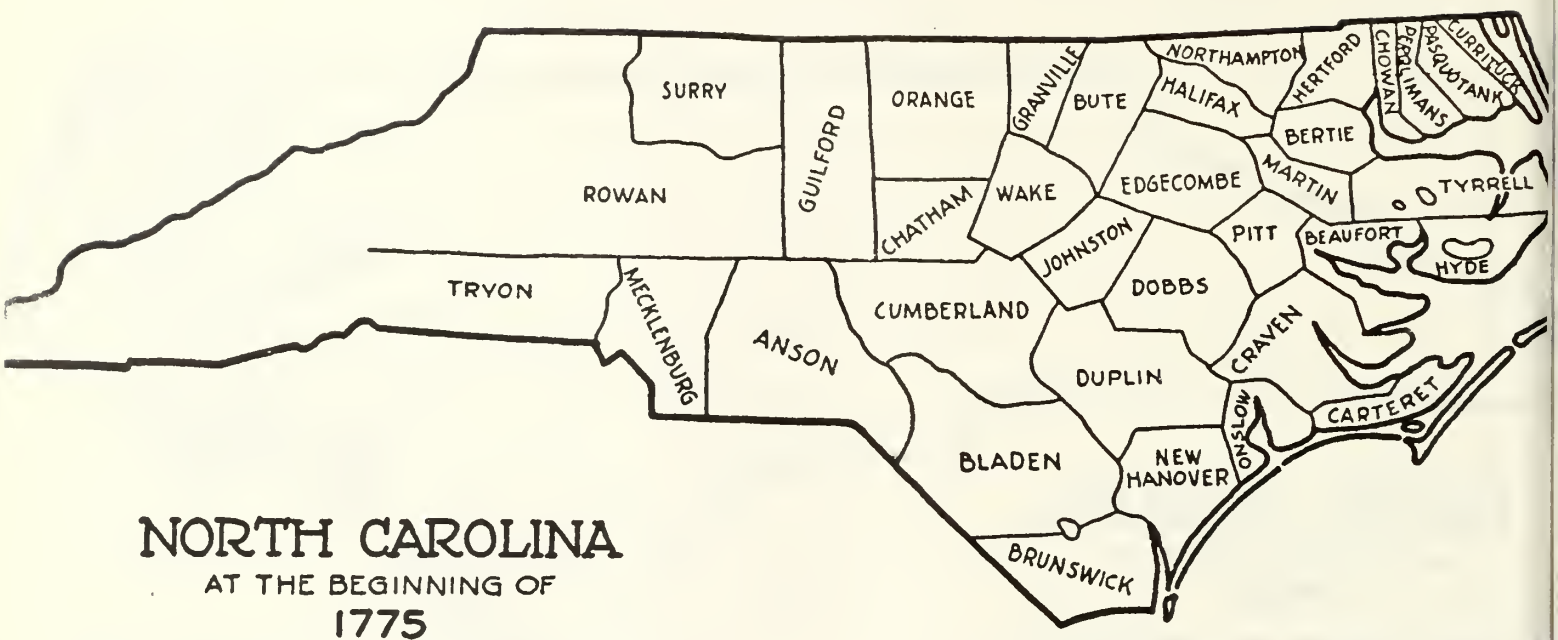
MAPS X AND XI

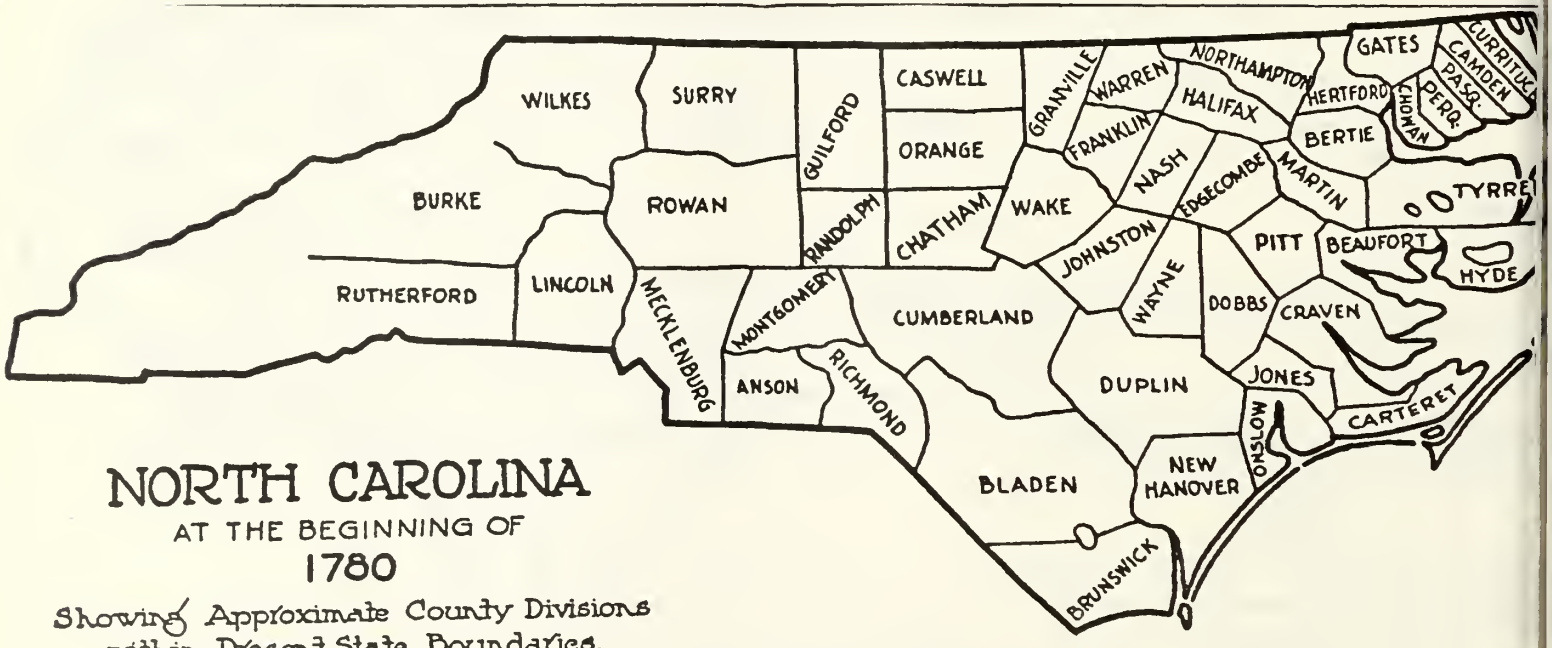
NORTH CAROLINA AT THE BEGINNING OF 1775-1780



NORTH CAROLINA
AT THE BEGINNING OF
1775

Showing Approximate County Divisions within Present State Boundaries

Map by
L. Polk Denmark



NORTH CAROLINA
AT THE BEGINNING OF
1780

Showing Approximate County Divisions within Present State Boundaries.

Map by
L. Polk Denmark

Source: David Leroy Corbett, The Formation of North Carolina Counties, 1663-1943 (Raleigh: N.C., Third Printing 1975).
Permission to reprint these maps was granted by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, Raleigh, North Carolina.

Actually, the 1747 date fits more closely with events. It is clear that James' father, William Bland, died in 1744, and certainly no later than 1745. Since William's will has been lost to researchers, it is impossible to tell with precision what happened to the property William held, or how he devised it, but it is clear that some of it ended up in the hands of his brothers James and John. Though it is also evident from later legal transactions that James received a goodly portion of the estate, it may be that there wasn't enough to hold him in Virginia. Also, it is obvious that William Bland was very close to his brother James, as witnessed in many land transactions in the years from about 1710-1742, and James (William's brother) seems to have come into a position of family prominence after William's death. James (ninth generation), on the other hand, would have been a man in his late thirties when his father died. He was married and had children, some of whom were reaching adulthood. This might have been a positive incentive for James to leave Virginia. In the 1740's, a family man coming to North Carolina, where New Hanover was one of the few organized counties, could count on a headright of fifty to one hundred acres for himself, and fifty acres for each member of his family. Typical grants were between 100-300 acres,[1] and this is about what James would have qualified for, assuming that some of the children mentioned in his will were not yet born when he moved there sometime between 1744-1747. To be able to make a start with 300 acres, in addition to holding the investment capital that accrued to him upon his father's death, would have left James fairly well off in his new location.

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1 Harry Merrens, Colonial North Carolina in the Eighteenth Century: A Study in Historical Geography (1964), p. 25.

There is another, somewhat more negative possibility, however, that might have induced James to leave Virginia. A man named James Bland was a principle in a local insurrection in Prince William County in 1731. It is not clear whether the participant was James Bland (eighth generation) or James Bland (ninth generation). However, a 24-year-old man would be more likely to participate in such an event than would a man who was no younger than 44 at the time. The so-called "Prince William Insurrection" consisted of a group of some fifty men, who were inspired by planters, angry about the tobacco laws. James Bland was specifically mentioned as a participant in the insurrection, which was described in the minutes of the Virginia Council on March 26, 1732:

> A number of the meaner sort of people of that county (Prince William) got together in arms, designing, as they gave out, to destroy the public warehouses in that and the adjacent counties, expecting to be joined by other malcontents, from the neighboring counties in the Northern Neck.[1]

The Council's minutes for May 2, 1732, show that the additional allies necessary to carry out the insurrection did not materialize and that the participants acknowledged their offense and prayed for pardon, which was granted.[2]

Such an event, however, even if pardoned in the eyes of the law, might have left James in a certain bad odor in Prince William, among his neighbors. Certainly, a long time elapsed between 1731-1732, and James' departure for North Carolina, but in an era of close-knit communities and long historical memories, his participation in the insurrection could have been a tangible factor in his decision to leave Prince William County.

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1 H. C. Groome, Fauquier During the Proprietorship (1927:1967), pp. 97-99. Cf. H. C. Copeland, The Five George Masons, p. 64.

2 Ibid.

In his will, James Bland mentioned a wife Mary and seven children, including two sons, William and James "Buchanan," and five daughters: Elizabeth, Catherine, Sarah, Ann and Lettice. James made his will on September 11, 1766, and it was proved in New Hanover County in October 1774.[1] In his will, James devised in excess of 1,830 acres of land in North Carolina, in addition to more than 300 acres in Virginia, to his children, and an additional unspecified amount of land to his wife Mary. How James accumulated his land is uncertain. There are three deeds, however, in Prince William County records that show James returning to Prince William County in 1761 to divest himself of about 1,128 acres of land, including 570 acres in Dettingen Parish to James Ingo Dozier, 357 acres in Fauquier County to Robert Scott, and 201 acres of land that James presumably possessed to William Asbury.[2] Capital from this land must have been reinvested in a series of land transactions for James Bland that are on record in New Hanover County between 1762-1771.[3] Most important of these perhaps, in terms of historical evidence, is a record of James Bland conveying 200 acres to one William Rein on March 1, 1767, with Rein returning the property in 1771.[4] James Bland

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1 Last Will and Testament of James Bland, September 11, 1766, New Hanover County, N.C. True copy supplied by William Graham Bland. Original filed in North Carolina Archives, Raliegh, North Carolina.

2 Prince William County Deed Book I, July 24, 1761, p. 86; Deed Book I, August 28, 1761, p. 29, and Deed Book I (no date available), p. 386.

3 New Hanover Deed Books E, September 7, 1763 (purchase of 200 acres on Bull Tail Creek), p. 61; Book E, November 2, 1764 (500 acres at Bull Tail near Rock Fish River), pp. 333-334.

4 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980, citing New Hanover County Deed Book E, p. 380, and Deed Book F, p. 333.

was the principle recipient in this transaction, with his son, James Buchanan Bland, a witness, which suggests that, whatever the reasons for James formulating his will in 1766, he did not actually die until several years later, perhaps very close to 1774 when the will was probated.

James Bland's property holdings in 1766, when he made his will, as well as his family constitution, is evident from his will, of which pertinent sections are quoted:

> I, James Bland, of North Carolina, but late of Virginia, Planter...do make, ordain and appoint this my last will and testament in manner and form following:...
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son William Bland, all my rights of all my land that I have in Virginia* and Prince William County, which the most of them is in the said county; also, I give and bequeath one hundred and fifty acres of land taken out of a patent bearing date 1704, also two hundred acres of land on the Doctors Creek.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son James Buchanan Bland** the remainder of that tract concluding the plantation that I had of Daniel Highsmith and Hardy Powell; also, the land I bought of Thomas Parker; and also, a negro boy named Charles, to him and his heirs forever; also, all creatures...***
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Elizabeth Lober, and her disposal, two hundred acres of land that I bought of Maquess Cowan.****

---

* Prince William Deed Book I (1761), p. 386, indicated that James had deeded 201 acres of a 598 acre tract to William Asbury, leaving 397 acres. William (tenth generation) specifically passed on 300 acres to his son William (eleventh generation). This transaction affirms that the William Bland who died in 1775 was the son of James Bland (ninth generation).

** James Buchanan Bland was thought by Wilson and others to have been named for his mother; hence, the assumed name of James Bland's wife, Mary Buchanan.

*** The Parker to James Bland transaction occurred in 1763 and amounted to 200 acres. New Hanover Deed Book E, September 7, 1763, pp. 61-62. The other transaction consists of an unspecified amount of land.

**** Cf. p. 276, note 4.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Catherine Sanders, all the land that I have on the Red Bank Branch, which is four hundred and twenty acres to her, and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my granddaughter, Elizabeth Wells, two hundred acres of land above me, the head that I have on Bulltail, forever.*

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Sarah Annesey,** one hundred and sixty acres of land lying upon Moores Creek, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Anna Bland, three hundred acres of land, which is called the Great Meadows and White Oak Branch, noted by a patent bearing date of November 1704, to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter Lettice Bland, all the remainder of my land to her and her heirs forever.

Item. I lend to my loving wife Mary Bland, all my lands and personable estate, during her widowhoodship; then after that my whole estate of moveables to be equally divided amongst all my children; and I also appoint my son, William Bland, and my son, James Buchanan Bland, also my loving wife, Mary Bland, to be my whole and sole executors during her widowhood; I also by humble request, do appoint Mr. Samuel Ash and Mr. John Ash for to see justice done to this my last will and testament ...in witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and fixed my seal this eleventh day of September, one thousand seven hundred and sixty-six.

James Bland (Seal)

Witnessed by Hardy (X) Powell; Rachel (R) Powell: Isaac Carter and William Lee.[1]

---

* From the placing of Elizabeth Wells, following Catherine Bland Sanders, one would suppose Elizabeth was Catherine's daughter.

** I believe the proper spelling of Sarah Bland's married name is Hennessey. In New Hanover County Deed Book E, October 6, 1764, p. 376, James Hennessey and wife Sarah sold 300 acres, sold to Hennessey in 1753.

[1] Will of James Bland, September 11, 1766.

James married Mary Buchanan about 1725, and they had a family of seven living children (tenth generation), and at least one grandchild (but probably more) when James made his will. Of the children, five were adults, while two daughters, Anna and Lettice Bland, were still minors or had not married. Elizabeth married a man named Lober, and Catherine married a man named Sanders. Presumably, Catherine was old enough to have an adult daughter, Elizabeth, who was married to a man named Wells. Sarah Bland had married a man named James Hennessey.

Of the two sons, very little is known of James Buchanan Bland. He was an adult in 1766 when his father's will was formulated, and was living in 1771.[1] Like most of James' children, he was probably born in the late 1720's or 1730's. The absence of any extended mention of him may suggest that he moved away from the New Hanover-Duplin County area after his father's death.

Of all these tenth generation children, the chief focus of Mr. Wilson and later researchers was upon William Bland.

William Bland of Duplin County, North Carolina (Tenth Generation)

After accounting for the variables of his grandfather, William Bland's (eighth generation) age and his father's probable age at marriage, and assuming further that William (tenth generation), as the first mentioned child and co-executor in his father's will, was the eldest child. I estimate that he was born about 1726. His will was made March 19, 1775, and probated July 1775, so the working dates for William (tenth generation) are C.1726-1775.

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1 Cf. p. 279, note 4.

TABLE XVIII

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND OF NEW HANOVER COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____
(2) Margaret _____

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717

(9) James Bland (C. 1707-1774) = Mary Buchanan, about 1725

(10-1)	(10-2)	(10-3)	(10-4)
William Bland (C. 1726-1775), married _____.	James Buchanan Bland.	Elizabeth Bland, married _____ Lober.	Sarah Bland, married James Hennessey.

(10-5)	(10-6)	(10-7)
Catherine Bland, married _____ Sanders.	Anna Bland (a minor in 1766).	Lettice Bland (a minor in 1766).

TABLE XVIX

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BLAND OF DUPLIN COUNTY,

NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717

(9) James Bland (C. 1707-1774) = Mary Buchanan

(10) William Bland (C. 1726-1775) = _____

(11-1)*	(11-2)*	(11-3)
William Bland (C. 1748-1816), married Rachel Powell.	James Bland (C. 1749/1754-), married _____.	Mary Bland, married _____ Parker.

(11-4)*	(11-5)*	(11-6)*
Thomas Bland.	Charles Bland, married Rachel Alderman.	John Bland (C. 1760-1827), married _____.

* The eleventh generation sons are listed in the order they appear in William Bland's will of 1775. Thomas, Charles and John were minors in 1775.

William must have married in the mid-1740's. The name of his wife is not mentioned in his will and remains unknown. William did, however, have two sons, William and James Bland (eleventh generation), who were executors of his will and had to be at least twenty-one in 1775. In fact, one of these sons, William, probably the older of the two, had to be born no later than 1748, as information about his children and grandchildren attests.

William lived in Duplin County, North Carolina. Most likely, he had settled near his father and hadn't moved, but simply came under Duplin County jurisdiction when it was organized from New Hanover County. His will was formulated and filed in Duplin County, and because of its critical informational role in the genealogy of this branch, it is substantially quoted:

> In the name of God, Amen. I, William Bland of Duplin County and Province of North Carolina, Planter...I will and bequeath to my son, William Bland, three hundred acres of land lying in Virginia on the head of Powells Branch, also a mare and a colt...
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my grandson, James Bland, the son of William Bland and Rachel, his wife, two cows and one calf and three yearlings; also, two feather beds and furniture; also, 20 pounds of proclamation money; also, I give my riding horse, saddle and bridle.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son, Thomas Bland, five shillings.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son, Charles Bland, five shillings.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my daughter, Mary Parker, one side saddle and my hogs.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son, James Bland, all the goods of mine he has on hand or in his possession.
>
> Item. I give and bequeath to my son, John Bland, five shillings.

> William Bland and James Bland constitute the sole executors of this my last will and testament. In witness, I have in the presence of these witnesses hereunto set my hand and pressed my seal this the 19th day of March in the year of Our Lord, 1775.
>
> William Bland
>
> Witnesses Thomas (X) Lee; Hardy (X) Powell; Rachel (X) Powell.[1]

This will indicates a daughter, Mary Bland, married to a man named Parker by 1775. William's will indicated he had five sons: William, James,[2] Thomas, Charles and John. Milton Wilson indicated that Charles Bland married Rachel Alderman, but both Wilson and Parker are silent about this marriage and its descendants, and I have seen no other evidence about Charles and Rachel. Likewise, nothing is known about William Bland's son Thomas. Fortunately, some information has been gathered and preserved by descendants of John Bland.[3]

John Bland (Eleventh Generation)

Because of the small bequest left John (similar bequests were left to his brothers Thomas and Charles), it is assumed that he was a minor when his father died. The 1790 census of Chatham County, North Carolina,

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1 Last Will and Testament of William Bland, Duplin County, North Carolina, March 19, 1775, recorded in Duplin County Will Book A, p. 25. Cf. Wilson, p. 285. A true copy of the will was provided this writer by William Graham Bland.

2 There is a possibility that James, who was an adult when his father died in 1775, though born in Duplin County, may as an adult have moved to Chatham County, as apparently his brother John did. See discussion on pp. 321 ff.

3 Information on the descendants of John Bland (eleventh generation) was supplied the author by Mrs. Graham (Castelloe Bland) Denton, based on her exchanges of information with Lina Burnett Moore, of Pittsboro, N.C. and Alice Phillips Garrison, of Sanford, N.C. I also received information from Mrs. John (Grace Lawrence) Awerdick, of Apex, N.C.

enumerates a John Bland, head of household, with two females. This enumeration, in addition to information in the will of John Bland of Chatham County, who died in April 1827, and further information about specific children of John Bland, persuades some researchers that John Bland of Chatham County is the son of William Bland, who died in Duplin County in 1775. Thus, John would be eleventh generation. By the estimates of his descendants, he was born about 1760, so his dates then were C.1760-1827. John Bland served in the North Carolina Militia at least through 1781.[1] In his will, it is clear that he had at least six children (twelfth generation), including, not necessarily in order, daughters Winny, Elizabeth, and Nancy, and sons John, William and James.

Nothing further is known to this author about the daughters of John Bland. The eldest son, as is probable, was James Bland (twelfth generation), who was born in 1784 and died about November 1850.[2] James lived his life in Chatham County. He married Mary _____ who was born in 1794, probably about 1810-1812. When he made his will in 1850, James Bland named eight children (thirteenth generation), including daughters Sarah, Mary, Nancy and Charity, and sons Oliver, John, William and Henry.

Of James' daughters, not much is known. In his will, James mentioned Sarah Bland, who must have been the youngest daughter, for she was unmarried at the time. Daughter Mary, who was born in 1828, according to the 1850 census, married James Greene. Daughter Nancy married

---

1 Treasurer's Report for North Carolina Troops During the American Revolution, Vol. 9, p. 82, Folio 3.

2 James' birth year is established by the Chatham County Census for 1850, in which he is shown to be 66 years old. His will was made April 4, 1850, and probated November term 1850. A copy of the will was supplied the author by Grace Awerdick, and is filed in Chatham County Record Book C, Part 2 (1817-1857), pp. 280-281, now held by the North Carolina Historical Commission.

William Gunter, and daughter Charity married Richard Gunter. The youngest son was Henry Bland, who was born in 1834. Henry was mentioned as a minor in his father's will of 1850.[1] William Bland, also mentioned as a minor in his father's will, was born in 1832. Nothing more is known by this author about William.

The eldest son of James and Margaret Bland was Oliver Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born in 1813 and died in 1868.

Bare information about Oliver is found in the 1850 Census of Chatham County, when he is enumerated as aged 37, married to Catherine _____, aged 26. There are children in his household obviously too old to be born to Catherine, suggesting that Oliver married twice. The children listed in the 1850 Census were (fourteenth generation): Alexander, aged 16; John, aged 13; Rebecca, aged 12; and Hiram, aged 10. In his will,[2] Oliver left bequests to his wife, and to Hiram and Rebecca.

John Bland (thirteenth generation), the second known son of James Bland, was born in 1814 in Chatham County and died there on January 23, 1890.

Two obituaries of John Bland, authored by C. A. Boone and W. S. Long, speak warmly of John.[3] Long recalled his own personal relationship with John, and their times on the circuit:

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1 Information supplied by Alice Phillips Garrison, of Sanford, North Carolina, indicates that Henry married Mary McIntosh.

2 Oliver Bland's will is in Chatham County Records Book D, p. 176. The will was filed November 19, 1867, and probated February term 1868.

3 Obituaries supplied the author by Albert Hunter.

> I was his pastor for a few years...Brother Bland would always meet me and go with me from house to house and when I would leave he would either get me to name the place where we could meet and spend the night at my next appointment, or he would do so, and thus for five years, he and I met monthly and would walk or ride together and at night would room together and in most instances occupied the same bed. He was an old man, his dear wife had gone before, I was young and oh, how often his loving hand was put on my shoulder, or about my neck...[1]

Long indicated that John Bland (thirteenth generation) was the first monetary contributor to Elon College, or at least, the first man to contribute through Long. Boone guessed John Bland's age to be between 75-80, thus reinforcing earlier census records that listed John's age. Boone said that for some months, John Bland had been afflicted with a carbuncle on his left shoulder blade that eventually killed him. What Boone actually described, however, was a tumor that probably only became clearly visible within the last few months of John's life, but by then had done its work. Boone even describes a brief period of remission when "he seemed to revive and gain strength," so it seems clear that John died of a cancer.[2]

John married on May 20, 1841, Mary Elizabeth Hatch, who was born in 1822 and died January 10, 1877. Numbered among their children was Thomas Jefferson Bland (fourteenth generation) who was born in Chatham County on August 6, 1849, and died in Sanford, North Carolina, on October 2, 1926.[3] He married on June 12, 1873, Jeruba Dob Johnson, and

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Mrs. Graham Denton submitted her DAR documents pertaining to this family as follows. The death certificate of Thomas Jefferson Bland, Chatham County Deed Book CM, p. 28; the Will of James Bland, November 19, 1850; the 1850 Census of Chatham County; the Will of John Bland, April 1827, and documents demonstrating John Bland's Revolutionary War Service.

by her had a son, Charles Andrew Bland (fifteenth generation) who was born November 10, 1874, and died in Durham, North Carolina, February 6, 1962. Charles married Edna May Marks on March 29, 1908, and had children who included (sixteenth generation): Castelloe Bland, who married Graham Denton; May Bland Winstead; and Charles Andrew Bland, Jr.[1]

The second son of John Bland (eleventh generation) was William "Buck"[2] Bland, who was born in Chatham County March 31, 1787, died there, and was buried May 4, 1860 at the Hanks Chapel Cemetery. William "Buck" Bland married Elizabeth Lewis, who was born January 25, 1797, and died on April 1, 1860.[3] William "Buck" Bland was a very well-to-do farmer, for his worth is listed as $3,500.[4] In the 1850 census, and in the 1840 census, he is shown to hold 14 slaves. Historians note

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1 In addition, John Bland and Mary Elizabeth Hatch had (fourteenth generation) Lavinia Bland (1846-), who married one Eubanks; and Martha (1854-).

2 The source of the name "Buck" is of interest. Possibly, it is some corruption of Buchanan, for William's great-grandmother Mary Buchanan (ninth generation).

3 The dates for William "Buck" Bland and his wife, Elizabeth Lewis, were noted by tombstone markings in the Hanks Chapel Cemetery and in his family Bible, preserved by his descendants.

4 This information was obtained from secondary sources and may have been a transposition. William "Buck" Bland was in the lumber business and was known in Chatham County as a very wealthy man. It may be that the $3,500 figure should be $35,000.

that most slaveholders owned fewer slaves, but obviously his worth was not in league with large plantation owners such as Avory Bland (eleventh generation), to be discussed in Chapter XI.[1]

It is a stroke of good fortune that William "Buck" Bland's descendants have preserved his family Bible, one of the most accurate sources of information for genealogists. The Bible records for William "Buck" Bland and Elizabeth, who were evidently married about 1817, a family of nine children (thirteenth generation):

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[1] The family Bible of William "Buck" Bland shows, however, that he increased if not prospered in the slaveholding business, for there were 23 children born to five of his slave women during the period 1831-1859. I would like to enumerate these births here, in hopes that some black person one day may discover his ancestor among them. I will do the same in Chapter XI respecting the slaves of Avory Bland. Although many of these slaves, following Emancipation, may have adopted their master's names, and some may have had their master's blood in their veins, they were legally master and slave, and bore no family relationship. One also should not harshly judge either "Buck" or Avory Bland, who were simply men of their times, caught up in this nation's most awful economic, moral and political curse. A slave woman, Sina, had four children: Margaret, born May 16, 1831; George, December 4, 1832; Sarah, born September 24, 1834; Delana, born July 20, 1836. A slave woman Cherry, had six children: Jane, born May 12, 1833; Rody (a daughter) born February 1835; Lotty, born May 6, 1837; Mary, born November 12, 1839; Winny, February 15, 1842; and Anzalet, born June 12, 1844. The slave woman Phebe, had seven children: Louisa, born April 30, 1843; Harmon, born October 8, 1845; Dennis, born October 25, 1847; Anna, born November 17, 1850; Lydia, born December 3, 1852; Doctor, born December 10, 1855; and Mariah, born November 15, 1858. The slave woman Sarah (possibly the daughter of Sina, born September 24, 1834, see above) had five children: Celia, born November 20, 1850; Andrew, born July 5, 1852; Peggy, born February 4, 1854; Joseph, born July 6, 1856; Nancy, born November 15, 1858. The slave woman Lany had one daughter Mary, born June 12, 1859. Source: The William "Buck" Bland Family Bible.

The first child was Mary Ann Bland, who was born October 4, 1818. Mary Ann married Wesley Griffin, but nothing more is known about her. Elizabeth Bland, the second child, was born July 20, 1820. Nothing more is known about her.

The third child of William "Buck" Bland and Elizabeth Lewis was William Bland, who was born January 21, 1823, and died in 1895. He married Frances Hatch about 1844, and had by her, three known children (fourteenth generation). These children were Mary Wesley Bland, born about 1845; Betty (Elizabeth), born 1846 or 1847; and Robert Ward Bland, who was born in 1848 and died in 1906. He married Lina Burnett and by her had three children (fifteenth generation), who were William, Margaret and Cara. The last child, Cara, was born in 1886 and died in 1976. She married Robert Joseph Moore (1877-1956) and by him had a family of four children (sixteenth generation) which included a correspondent of the author, Lina Burnett Moore.[1]

The fourth child of William "Buck" Bland (twelfth generation) and Elizabeth Lewis, was Naomy, who was born January 22, 1825. Celia Bland, the fifth child, was born February 15, 1827, and died June 3, 1889.

Joseph Bland was the sixth child of William "Buck" Bland and Elizabeth Lewis. He was born December 18, 1829. Joseph married Mary Jane Neal about 1851, and had by her a family of four children (fourteenth generation). These children included Daisy and William Bland, about whom nothing more is known by the author. A daughter, Annie Bland interestingly, married Abraham Columbus Moore, and by him had eight

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[1] See discussion about Lina Burnett's double descent from William "Buck" Bland, p. 291, note 1.

children (fifteenth generation) including Robert Joseph Moore, who married Cara Bland, and who as indicated before, was descended from William "Buck" Bland and Elizabeth Lewis, through William Bland, Jr. (1823-1895), who was the father of Robert Ward Bland (1848-1906), father of Cara Bland (1886-1976), mother of Lina Burnette Moore.[1]

The oldest child of Joseph Bland (thirteenth generation) and Mary Jane Neal was Thomas Montreville Bland, who was born January 26, 1852 and died June 2, 1925. Thomas married Sophia Poe (1857-November 3, 1921) and had by her nine children (fifteenth generation), including William Fowle Bland, born November 25, 1888 and died October 31, 1958, who married Julia Virginia Moore. William Fowle Bland lived and died in Pittsboro, North Carolina. He and Julia Virginia Moore had a family of four children (sixteenth generation), including Virginia Antoinette Bland, who married W. T. Phillips, and by him had a daughter (seventeenth generation), Alice Phillips Garrison, of Sanford, North Carolina.

The remaining children (fifteenth generation) of Thomas Montreville Bland and his wife, Sophia Poe, were: Joseph Bland, who married Ella Cooke; Namoi Bland, who married William Cooke; Alice Bland, who married Murray Guinn; Clyde Bland, who married Margaret Burns; Laura Bland, who married D. D. Guinn; Auburn Bland, who married Ruth Ellen Eubanks; Mary Bland, who married William Griffin; and Stella Bland, who married Wrenn Gillmore.

The remaining three children of William "Buck" Bland and Elizabeth Lewis (twelfth generation) were Nancy Bland, born March 27, 1832, who married _____ Sturdivant; James Bland (March 3, 1835-June 21, 1838); and Matilda "Puss" Bland, who was born January 23, 1840, and died March 22, 1907.

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1 Cf. p. 290, note 1.

The remaining son of John Bland (eleventh generation) was John. He was probably born after 1790 and was living in 1827, when his father left a bequest to "John or his heirs," but he had died by 1850. Nothing more is known to this author about John Bland (twelfth generation), except that he had one son, James Bland, who was born January 19, 1824, and died June 30, 1895, living his life in Chatham County. His relationship to John Bland (twelfth generation) is proved by his uncle James Bland's will of April 1850, which left a bequest to "my nephew James Bland, son of my deceased brother, Johnny."[1] James was made sole executor of his uncle James' estate.[2] James married, on May 9, 1850, Rebecca Catherine "Kate" Lasater, who was born March 23, 1827, and died October 5, 1905. In 1850, James and Kate were enumerated in the household of James' uncle, William "Buck" Bland.

On August 7, 1851, Kate Lasater Bland gave birth to a son, James Sextus "Seck" Bland (fourteenth generation) who died in Wake County, North Carolina, September 7, 1928. James Sextus Bland married Isabella Cameron (January 30, 1852-January 17, 1897) in Harnett County, North Carolina, on January 2, 1873. James and Isabella were parents of a daughter, Mary Katherine Bland (fifteenth generation) who was born April 24, 1875, and died May 11, 1944. Mary Katherine married Henry Thomas Lawrence (1863-1941) in Wake County on June 18, 1899. They were parents of Grace Evelyn Lawrence (sixteenth generation), who married John H. Awerdick of Tarrytown, New York.[3]

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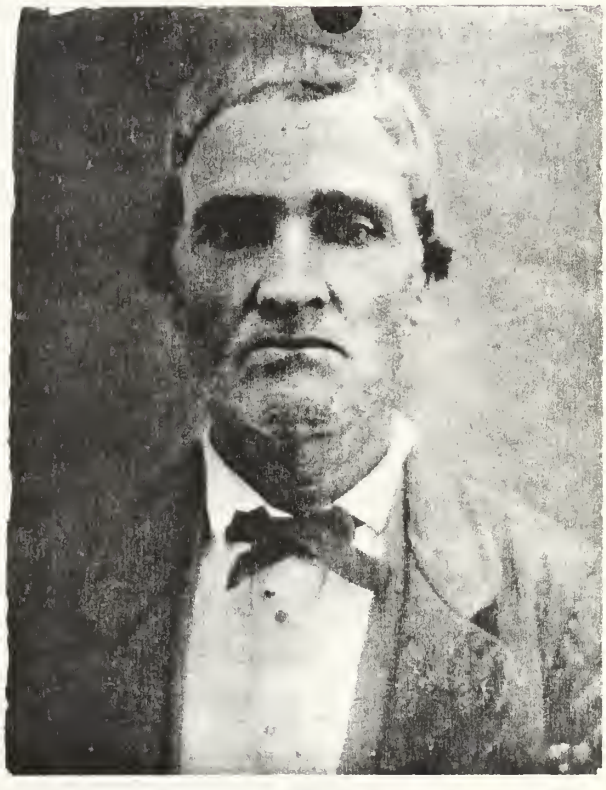
1 Will of James Bland, April 4, 1850.

2 Ibid.

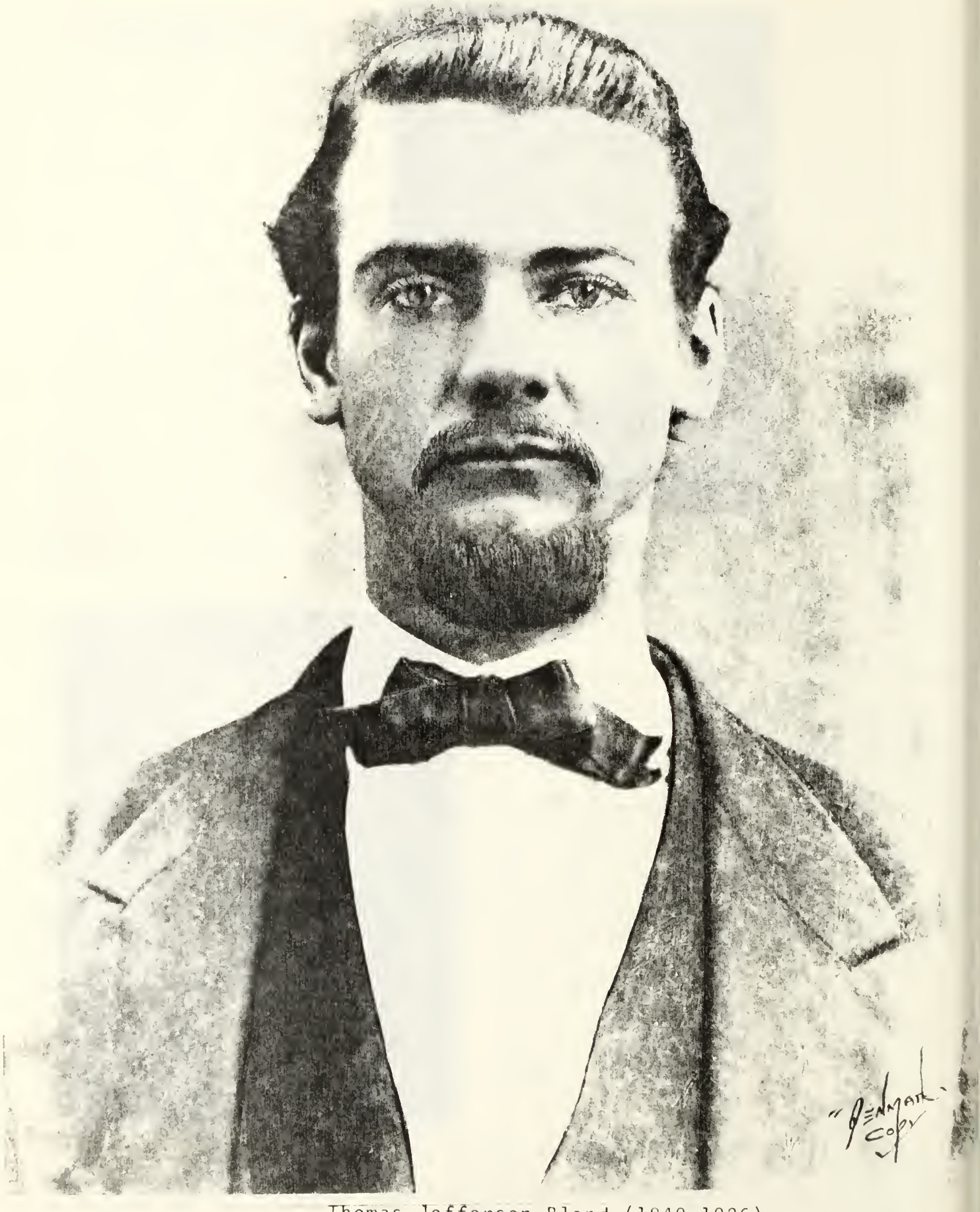
3 Grace Awerdick to Charles Bland, November 30, 1981 and December 11, 1981. John Awerdick and Grace Lawrence were married November 9, 1946, and are parents of John Holmes Awerdick III, who was born in 1947 and is himself the father of two children: a son, Jason Alexander, and daughter, Megan Elizabeth. Mrs. Awerdick claims descent through her great-grandmother, Kate Lasater, from the Winslow family of Massachusett

Mary Elizabeth Hatch
Bland (1822-1877)



John Bland (1814-1890)

Courtesy: Castelloe Bland Denton.



Thomas Jefferson Bland (1849-1926)

Courtesy: Castelloe Bland Denton.

Thomas Jefferson Bland (1849-1926) and his granddaughter, Castelloe Bland. Photo taken about 1913.

Matilda "Puss" Bland (1840-1907)

Courtesy: Castelloe Bland Denton.

TABLE XX

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF DUPLIN AND CHATHAM COUNTIES,

NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(10) William Bland (C. 1726-1775) = _____

(11) John Bland (C. 1760-1827) = _____

Daughters	Sons		
(12-) Minny Bland Elizabeth Bland Nancy Bland	(12-1) James Bland (1784-1850), married Mary _____ (1794-) about 1812.	(12-2) William "Buck" Bland (1787-1860), married Elizabeth Lewis about 1817.	(12-3) John Bland (-) married _____
	(13-1) Mary Bland (1828-), married James Greene. (13-2) Nancy Bland, married William Gunter. (13-3) Charity Bland, married Richard Gunter. (13-4) Sarah Bland (13-5) Oliver Bland (1813-1868), married Catherine _____ about 1833. (13-6) John Bland (1814-1890), married Mary Elizabeth Hatch in 1841. (13-7) William Bland (1832-) (13-8) Henry Bland (1834-)	(13-1) Mary Ann Bland (1818-), married Wesley Griffin. (13-2) Elizabeth Bland (1820-). (13-3) William Bland (1823-1895), married Frances Hatch C. 1844. (13-4) Naomy Bland (1825-). (13-5) Celia Bland (1827-1889). (13-6) Joseph Bland (1829-), married Mary Jane Neal C. 1851. (13-7) Nancy Bland (1832-), married _____ Sturdivant. (13-8) James Bland (1835-1838). (13-9) Matilda "Puss" Bland (1840-1901).	(13-1) James Bland (1824-1895) married Rebecca Catherine Lasater in 1850.

These families of James, William "Buck", and John Bland (twelfth generation), sons of John Bland (eleventh generation), according to census records, lived in close proximity, and formed a distinct family group.

William Bland (Eleventh Generation)

The eldest son of William Bland of Duplin County (tenth generation, C.1726-1775), was William Bland (eleventh generation). My estimate is that William was born about 1748 and died during 1816. The date of his death is demonstrated by a deed of land to his grandson, which was made on April 2, 1816, and proved during the October term of 1816. Wilson suggested that William's death likely preceded the probation date. The same deed speaks of "a patent granted to me on December 16, 1769."[1] This patent may have been bought by William, or given to him by his father or grandfather, but in any case would suggest a coincidence with his twenty-first birthday, a date that might also have corresponded to the date of his marriage to Rachel Powell.[2] William's dates then are C.1748-1816, and it is probable that he married Rachel Powell about 1769. William served as a soldier in the American Revolution, but had

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1 William Bland, Senior to Daniel Bland - 315 acres, Duplin County Deed Book DFTU (or J), April 2, 1816, p. 290. Daniel's grandfather gave the land to him on his wedding day.

2 Wilson, p. 286, suggests that William married Rachel Powell, whom he represents as a daughter of one Jacob Powell. William Graham Bland did not enter Rachel's maiden name when filing his membership application to the National SAR (National Number 115869). Wilson's reasons for surmising Rachel's maiden name is not clear, nor is it apparent from Wilson's work how all these Powells are related.

his known family prior to that time. William's known children included a daughter and two sons (twelfth generation). The daughter was Elizabeth Bland, dates uncertain, who married Isaac Newton.[1]

The son of William Bland (eleventh generation) and Rachel Powell of most interest to Mr. Wilson was William Bland, who was born February 23, 1771, and died about 1854. William married Mary Parker about 1793. He lived in Duplin County, North Carolina, in the vicinity of Rockfish Creek.[2] William had a daughter, Elizabeth (1802-1842) whose son Robert Highsmith, in 1905, described William Bland (twelfth generation) to young Milton Wilson as follows:

> ...William Bland was a small man with very curly red hair and blue eyes. He had a good plantation of 1,000 acres in Duplin County, North Carolina, about six miles northwest of Wallace, N.C., on which he lived in a very substantial two-story residence, one of the best in Duplin County. He had a large apple orchard and made a large amount of cider and vinegar. He was very prosperous and had about 25 slaves, among whom I remember an old aunt Becky, who had children Gabriel, Balaam, Isaac, Irving, Ebb, Edd, Jack, Ann and Daniel, and others. William Bland had a good stock of cattle and hogs. One horse in particular I remember was Tallifax, with white sides. William Bland was very industrious and died suddenly while out in the fields directing some work. He had started back to his residence when he dropped dead. He was very popular and was a good neighbor.[3]

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1 Nothing more is known about this marriage, but there were numerous other relationships between the Blands and Newtons in Duplin County. William's grandson, James Bland (thirteenth generation) married secondly Esther Newton and had a son Isaac Newton Bland. Four Newton brothers, Samuel, George, Jacob and Isaac, came to New Hanover, Duplin County, about 1755. Samuel Newton was the founder of the Bull Tail, now Wells Chapel Baptist Church, The Wallace Enterprise, Wallace, N.C. July 20, 1981. A copy of this article was supplied the author by William Graham Bland.

2 Rockfish Creek is present-day Harrells, N.C.

3 Information about William Bland is found in Wilson, pp. 287-288.

According to Mr. Wilson, William Bland (twelfth generation) and Mary Parker had a family of six children (thirteenth generation), including one son and five daughters. The son, identified as the third child by Mr. Wilson, was James Bland, who was born April 27, 1798 and died December 15, 1862. He married Mary C. Powell. Among the daughters, Rachel Bland, whose dates are unknown, married two men: (1) Joshua Lee, and (2) William Powell. Lucretia Bland, whose dates also are unknown, married William Newton on March 1, 1817, and they went to Tennessee. Nancy Bland was born in 1799 and died in 1845. She married Bryan Lee and they had a daughter who married a man named John Baucom. The youngest daughter was Elizabeth Bland, mentioned above, who was born June 8, 1802, and died in 1842, and who married Jacob Highsmith. They had a son Robert Highsmith. Susannah Bland, the fifth child and fourth daughter of William Bland and Mary Parker was born in 1800 and died in August 1887. She married Ephraim Johnson (1796-1835) in 1824,[1] and second, Naaman Stephens. By her marriage to Johnson, Susan had two sons, Enoch Johnson (1825-1886) who married Lucinda Miley, and Milton Washington Johnson (1828-1867), who married Maria Ann Knight on September 2, 1858. Milton Johnson (fourteenth generation) and Maria Knight had a son and three daughters, among them Helen Mar Johnson (fifteenth generation) who was born in 1860 and died in 1947. Helen married Charles Cooper Wilson (1858-1907) on January 31, 1883, and their third child was Milton Wilson (sixteenth generation), who was born July 23, 1886 and died March 17, 1956. Milton Wilson was a lawyer and

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1 Wilson, pp. 289-290.

lived in Bartow, Florida. He was one of the most able and prolific historians of the Bland family.[1]

The second son of William Bland (eleventh generation) and his wife, Rachel Powell, was James Bland (twelfth generation), who by my estimation was born about 1770 and died September 12, 1818. James Bland married Jemima Alderman (1773-1800) probably about 1795. Jemima was a daughter of Daniel Alderman and Sarah Newton. They had a daughter Edith and two sons, Daniel White Bland and William Bland (thirteenth generation). This branch of Blands intermarried extensively with the Newton and Alderman family and because of this, they were a subject of William Alderman Parker's interest in his book about the Alderman family. Parker's work, as well as information supplied by William Graham Bland, of Jacksonville, Florida, and other members of this family, enable a rather extended sketch of the family's growth and direction.[2]

Edith Bland, the daughter of James Bland and Jemima Alderman, was born about 1800. She married a John Fryar. The eldest son of James Bland and Jemima Alderman was Daniel White Bland, who was born February 15, 1796, and died March 30, 1871.[3] He married Dorcas Page, who was born in 1798, on April 2, 1816.[4] She was a sister of the wife of Daniel's

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1 Ibid. Cf. William Alderman Parker, Aldermans in America (1957), pp. 47-52, 94-96, 328-329.

2 William Graham Bland, "James Bland of New Hanover County, North Carolina," (no date), paper supplied by the author to Charles Bland, August 10, 1981. I am grateful to William Graham Bland for helping me sort out many thorny issues about this branch of the family. Cf. Parker, pp. 51-52, 94-99, 163-167, 207-208, 400-403. I am grateful to Albert Hunter, of State College, Pennsylvania, for supplying these pages of Alderman's work to me.

3 Will of Daniel White Bland, dated November 20, 1865. Xerox of the original will was graciously supplied the author by William Graham Bland. Stephen McLeod, of Tallahassee, Florida, indicates that Daniel White Bland's tombstone reflects the 1796-1871 dates. Cf. McLeod to Charles Bland, November 30, 1981.

4 Cf. p. 282, note 1.

half-brother, Amariah Bland (1809-1869), whose maiden name was Mary Page. Daniel's will of 1865 was filed in Duplin County.

Daniel White Bland (thirteenth generation) and Dorcas Page had a family of nine children (fourteenth generation), who were:[1]

(1) Jemima Bland, born May 4, 1818, who married Allen Johnson. Although records are somewhat confused on the point, it appears that Johnson found the Bland women entirely to his liking, for following the death of Jemima, he married (2) Mary Bland, who was born in 1821. (3) James Thomas Bland, who will be discussed below. (4) John Bland, born about 1823, died single. He was killed in the Civil War. (5) Elizabeth Bland, who was born in 1824, married Joshua Blanton, and moved with him to Florida. (6) Joseph William Bland was an invalid who never married. (7) Daniel White Bland Jr. was born January 10, 1836, and died January 11, 1897. He married Ivey Rogers (1859-1906) and by her had two daughters (fifteenth generation), Ruth and Naomi. (8) Harmon Bland was born July 22, 1839 and died August 12, 1924. He married first Alvania Peterson (1842-1896) and second, Sarah Bland (1854-1937). Harmon had three daughters (fifteenth generation), Dollie, Nettie and Minnie, but it is not clear to this author whether their mother was Alvania Peterson or Sarah Bland. (9) Tabitha Caroline Bland, known as "Aunt Lina," was born October 21, 1842, and died January 1, 1901. She married Allan Bryant Peterson and by him had a family of six children (fifteenth generation).

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[1] For information about the family of Daniel White Bland and Dorcas Page, I am especially grateful to Stephen McLeod, of Talahassee, Florida, for his review and critical comments. Cf. McLeod to Charles Bland, June 9, November 30, and December 15, 1981. Stephen descends from this line, as do Lillian Newham McCree, of Valdosta, Georgia; Earl Bland, of Jacksonville, Florida; Beth Bland Engle, of Brunswick, Georgia; Mrs. Frank (Josephine Bland) Hatton, of Jacksonville, Florida. Cf. Parker, p. 94.

The child of Daniel White Bland (thirteenth generation) and Dorcas Page that figures most prominently in this branch of Blands who migrated from North Carolina to Georgia was James Thomas Bland (fourteenth generation), of Duplin County, North Carolina. He was born February 22, 1822, and died February 26, 1879. James Thomas married, probably about 1854, Mary Ann Simmons, and they had a family of eight children (fifteenth generation):

(1) Emma Bland was born January 2, 1855, and died February 26, 1932. Emma married a cousin, Lewis Bland, who was born August 13, 1848, and died January 17, 1919. Lewis' relationship to Emma is uncertain, but they had a family of six children (sixteenth generation), whose lives extended into the 20th century. They were:

(A) Claudius Bland (January 17, 1879 to July 16, 1879); (B) Edgar Lee Bland (April 13, 1881 to March 6, 1948), who never married; (C) Mary Fannie Bland (October 16, 1885 to August 13, 1923), died of cancer and never married; (D) Mattie Tate Bland (April 13, 1888 to January 10, 1964), married Walter W. Peterson; (E) Luther Eugene Bland (May 29, 1890 to April 21, 1959), married Addie Gavin. Their children would be seventeenth generation. (F) Mazie Bland (May 19, 1896 to May 4, 1951), married Allen Johnson.

(2) Ira Bland, second child of James Thomas Bland and Mary Ann Simmons, was born March 7, 1857 and died August 4, 1943.[1] Ira married twice. His first wife was Ivey Harris Alderman (1869-1902). By this marriage, there were three children (sixteenth generation) whose lives extended into the 20th century:

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[1] In many cases I have been able to add precision to dates for the Duplin County, North Carolina family, by reference to a list of tombstone inscriptions from the Bull Tail-Wells Chapel Baptist Church cemetery, which were supplied to me by Albert Hunter.

(A) Charlie Love Bland (June 3, 1893 to June 9, 1933), who married Ethel Jones; (B) Ernest Julian Bland (October 3, 1895 to June 7, 1969), who married Thelma Carolina Newton; (C) Nellie Jane Bland (August 15, 1899-), married Robert Real Johnson.

Following the death of Ivey Harris Alderman, Ira Bland married Margaret Dixon Boyette (1883-1975) and by her had two children (sixteenth generation), including (A) Theodore Cyrus Bland (December 20, 1910-), now of Harrells, North Carolina, who married Mary Jane Waters; and (B) Emma Oleta Bland.

(3) Lafayette Bland (fifteenth generation), third child of James Thomas Bland and Mary Ann Simmons, was born June 18, 1859 and died September 23, 1943, in Atlanta, Georgia. As a young man, Lafayette Bland moved to Georgia, where on February 23, 1888, he married at Wooten's Mill, Georgia, Huldah Jane Wooten (1872-1927). They had a family of seven children (sixteenth generation), including:

(A) Claude Bland, who was born December 6, 1888 in Wooten's Mill, Georgia, and married three times; (B) Edwin D. Bland, who was born March 21, 1891 and died September 11, 1894; (C) Lee Roy Bland, who was born May 25, 1893 and married twice; (D) Henrietta Elizabeth Bland, who was born June 18, 1895 and died February 23, 1980. Henrietta married Eugene Gibson Newham (1897-1933) on July 27, 1913.[1] (E) Rosa Lee Bland, born May 25, 1897 and died February 19, 1933, who married Otto Floyd Helm. (F) Merrie Woodberry Bland, born June 28, 1899, who never married. (G) Alma Edda Bland, who was born November 6, 1902 and died January 13, 1959. She married Harry J. Craig.

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[1] Eugene Newham and Henrietta Bland are the parents of my correspondent, Lillian Newham McRee.

(4) Daniel Tate Bland (fifteenth generation) was born November 2, 1860 and married Martha Elizabeth Wooten. Their children included four sons and one daughter (sixteenth generation) whose lives extended into the 20th century:

(A) Ralph Edwin Bland (August 16, 1888 to February 6, 1952) who married Addie Grubb; (B) James Richard Bland (September 16, 1891 to August 15, 1960) married Ina Middleton; (C) John Wooten Bland (April 26, 1894 to January 26, 1969) married Ethel McDougald; (D) Mattie Bessie Bland (-June 5, 1977) married Bruce Smith; (E) Stanley Bland (August 21, 1899 to March 20, 1951), never married.

(5) Edwin Dawson Bland was born on February 5, 1865[1] and died April 5, 1919. He married Velma Frazier and had by her four children (sixteenth generation), whose lives extended into the 20th century. They were: (A) John Frank Bland (August 31, 1904 to October 20, 1964) who married Clara Boone; (B) Dan Ed Bland (August 17, 1912 to January 16, 1978) who married Ruby Croxton; (C) Jim Andrew Bland (December 26, 1914 to October 12, 1919); (D) David Paul Bland (November 10, 1918 to November 10, 1945).

(6) Cornelia Ann Bland was born December 28, 1867, and married Willis Hall Wooten, by whom she had six children (sixteenth generation) whose lives extended into the 20th century.

(7) The seventh child of James Thomas Bland and Mary Ann Simmons was Ida Dorcas Bland, who was born July 31, 1874.

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[1] The age gap between Daniel White Bland and his brother, Edwin Dawson Bland (1860 to 1865) suggests that their father, James Thomas Bland (1822-1879) may have done military service in the Civil War.

(8) James Oscar Bland, the final child of James Thomas Bland (fourteenth generation) and Mary Ann Simmons, was born March 7, 1876.[1] He married Lula Clements and by her had a family of seven children (sixteenth generation):

(A) Iris Mae Bland was born June 24, 1901, and married Edgar Burch; (B) Earl E. Bland was born October 21, 1902 and married first, Louise Malloy, and second, Mildred Newton; (C) Guy Rupert Bland was born July 31, 1905 and died November 10, 1977; he married Martha Barney; (D) Addie Bland (October 15, 1907-) married Floyd Williams; (E) Daniel Ed Bland (June 10, 1910-) married Mary Alice Thomas; (F) Mary Josephine Bland (July 21, 1919-) married J. F. Hatton; (G) James Julian Bland (February 10, 1922-) married Dorothy Anderson.

This concludes the known descendants of James Bland (1770-1818, twelfth generation) and Jemima Alderman (1773-1800) through their first-born son, Daniel White Bland (1796-1871, thirteenth generation).

The second known son of James Bland (twelfth generation) and Jemima Alderman, was William Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born about 1797 and died in February 1873. William Bland married Susannah Alderman, daughter of David and Jemima Alderman, who was born March 14, 1795 and died about 1880. William and Susan were married in North Carolina about 1814, but the following year or thereabouts, moved to Bulloch County, Georgia.[2]

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1 James Oscar Bland was the great-grandfather of Stephen McLeod, of Talahassee, Florida.

2 The family of William Bland and Susannah Alderman (thirteenth generation) is discussed by Parker, pp. 166, 400-403. Cf. Stephen McLeod to Charles Bland, November 30, 1981 and December 15, 1981. Cf. Dan E. Bland and Willie Lee Bland Moseley, "The Bland Family of Bulloch County, Georgia" (1982).

They were members of, and were buried at the Primitive Baptist Church which was burned down, later rebuilt and established as the Upper Lott's Creek Baptist Church. William Bland and Susannah Alderman were parents of a large family of eleven children (fourteenth generation) who were:

1. Jemima Bland, who was born in North Carolina September 17, 1815 and died January 13, 1890. Parker indicates that she was an invalid and never married.

2. James Bland was the second child of William Bland and Susannah Alderman. He was born July 24, 1817 in Georgia, and died April 28, 1893. He married on November 30, 1842, Malberry Smith, who was born July 7, 1824 and died May 13, 1904. James Bland and Malberry Smith moved to Florida and had a family of twelve children (fifteenth generation):

(A) Daniel Bland, born November 30, 1842;[1] (B) Susannah Bland (April 1843 to April 3, 1850); (C) Elbert Bland (March 18, 1847 to 1933) married Elizabeth Ratcliff; (D) Celestia Bland, born April 5, 1849, married R. W. McCall; (E) Missouri Bland, born June 30, 1851, married C. R. Harrington;[2] (F) Josephine Bland, October 14, 1853; (G) Theodore Bland, born October 2, 1856, married Cornelia Prather; (H) Orpha Bland, born May 14, 1859, married E. H. Sewell; (I) Sarah Bland, born September 3, 1861, married Thomas Culbreth; (J) William Jobe Bland, born March 8, 1864, married Eleanor Brannen; (K) James David Bland, born March 23, 1866, married Lillian Harring; (L) Ezekiel Bland, born September 26, 1868, married Eveor Prather.

3. Daniel Bland was born in 1818 and died January 10, 1880. Daniel married Jency Parrish,[3] who was born September 11, 1821 and died

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1 Daniel Bland died March 17, 1845.

2 Missouri Bland may have married Lot Townsend before C. R. Harrington

3 Daniel Bland married Jency Parrish September 19, 1839.

February 13, 1905. Their children (fifteenth generation) had lives which extended into the 20th century:

(A) William Bland (1842-1918) who married Nicie Riggs; (B) James Bland (1844-1925), who married, first Rebecca Bowen, and second, Ella Butler; (C) Elizabeth Bland (1846-1924) who married John Groover; (D) Michael Bland (1848-1924) who married Anne Rigdon in 1876; (E) Malachi Bland (1851-1912) married Mattie Mercer; (F) Mitchell Bland (1853-1933) who married Malisie Johnson; and (G) Benjamin Bland (1855-1891) who married Elizabeth Beasley.[1]

4. David Bland, whose dates are unknown, married a Nancy Lanier and moved away with her to Thomas County, Georgia. Their children (fifteenth generation): (A) William Bland; (B) George Bland, who married Katherine Lanier; and (C) Frank Bland, who married _____ Warren.

5. Timothy Bland was born September 7, 1823 and died on August 12, 1893. On September 4, 1845 he married Jane Parrish, a cousin of the Jency Parrish who married Timothy's brother, Daniel. Their children were (fifteenth generation): (A) Mary Bland, who never married; (B) Sarah Bland, who married Isaiah Parrish; (C) Milton Bland, who married Missouri Holloway; (D) Safronia Bland, who married Cooper Freeman; (E) Hillary Bland, who married Marietta Byrd; (F) Frankie Bland, who married James Lanier; (G) Hiram Bland, who married Ida Parrish and Carrie Lord; (H) Laura Bland, who married John Hendricks; and (I) Leonard Bland, who married Mary Buie.

6. Hiram Bland, born probably in 1824. Hiram was a Confederate soldier who was killed during the Battle of Kennesaw Mountain near Atlanta in 1864. He married his cousin, Jency Crumpton. Their

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[1] Three children of Daniel Bland and Jency Parrish, Newton, Richard and an unnamed infant, died young.

children (fifteenth generation) were: (A) Ivy Bland, who married Louisa Woodrum; (B) Timothy Bland, who married Vicie Woodrum; (C) Susan Bland, who married John Franklin; (D) Mary Bland, who married Frank Deal; and (E) Asbury Bland, who married Katherine Byrd.

7. Edith Bland, born about 1827, married Batte Gay.

8. Rebecca Bland, born about 1828, died August 13, 1895. She married William Pridgeon (born in 1819, killed in the Civil War) and by him had issue (fifteenth generation), including: (A) a son, James Pridgeon, who also was killed during the Civil War; (B) Madison, who wed Lavinia Dixon; (C) Adeline, never wed; (D) Mozell, wed John Waters.

9. Safronia Bland, born January 1, 1831 and died September 28, 1900, who married first Barry Gay and had issue by him. After his death Safronia married Aleck Clark. She also had children by him.

10. William Bland, Jr., who was born July 5, 1835 and died December 7, 1866. William Bland served in Company D, 61st Georgia Regiment, C.S.A., and was captured by the Yankees. He was not released until afte the Confederate forces surrendered in 1865. Excepting his service in the Civil War, William appears to have lived near Stateboro, Georgia. He married September 5, 1856 Sarah Gray, who was born in 1836 and died June 8, 1911. Their children (fifteenth generation) whose lives reached into the 20th century, included: (A) Mary Bland (May 19, 1858-) who married James Beasley on April 4, 1878; (B) Fulton Bland (1859-1935) who married Fluvanna Green on March 30, 1884; (C) Arian Bland (1861-1911) who married Mills Brinson; (D) Ada Bland (1861[1]- , a twin of Arian) who married D. E. Byrd; (E) Hanson Bland (1866-1896) who married Ella Franklin; (F) Susan Bland (1868-) who married James Calhoun;

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[1] Ada and Arian were twins, born April 10, 1861.

(G) Absola Bland (1870-), who married Robert Graham; (H) Winnifred Bland (1871-) who married J. H. Johnson; (I) William W. Bland (1873-1931) who married Elizabeth Parrish in 1898; and (J) Walter Bland (1875-1934) who married first, Kittie Parish, and second, about 1904, Annie Robinson.

11. Sarah Bland, who is listed as the youngest child of William Bland and Susannah Alderman, was born about 1834. She married Clem Mercer but they had no children.

This is the extent of information known by the author about descendants of James Bland (twelfth generation, C.1770-1818) by his first wife, Jemima Alderman.

Following the death of Jemima Alderman about 1800, James Bland (twelfth generation) remarried, probably about 1801, to Esther Newton, who was born October 11, 1779, and died September 17, 1854. Esther was the daughter of Isaac Newton and Jemima Chambers, and the aunt of James Bland's first wife, Jemima Alderman. James Bland and Esther Newton had a family of ten known children (thirteenth generation), including: (1) Anna Bland; (2) James Newton Bland (1803-1875); (3) Dorcas Bland; (4) Jemima Bland; (5) Mary Bland; (6) Amariah Bland (1809-1869); (7) James Thomas Bland (1810-1886); (8) David Bland; (9) Enoch Bland (1815-1871); (10) Timothy Bland (1818-1883). Of these ten children, the following is known.

Daughter Anna Bland was born May 2, 1802 and died May 16, 1847.[1] She married Enoch Alderman (1801-1878). Daughter Dorcas, the third child, married John Blanton. The second child, and first son of James

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1 Parker, pp. 80-83. Cf. Stephen McLeod to Charles Bland, December 15, 1981.

Bland and Esther Newton was Isaac Newton Bland, who was born December 1803 and died in August 1875. Isaac married Mary Elizabeth Alderman on July 1, 1824. Mary was born May 30, 1808 and died December 30, 1847. Mary was the daughter of John Alderman and was Isaac Newton Bland's second cousin. Isaac Newton Bland was a church deacon at the Bull Tail-Wells Chapel Baptist Church near present-day Wallace, in Duplin County. He filed his will in Sampson County, North Carolina, adjacent to and formed from Duplin. Isaac and Mary, his wife, were parents of ten children (fourteenth generation) who included:[1]

Milton Bland, who was born April 27, 1826 and died June 26, 1897. Milton was a native of Duplin County, but spent his adult life as a farmer in Sampson County. Milton married, on March 20, 1851, Elizabet J. Turner, whose dates were April 5, 1828 to July 20, 1873.

Milton Bland and Elizabeth Turner had a family of six children, including five daughters and a son (fifteenth generation). They were: Mary Ann, who married Isaac Francis Newton; Esther Susan, who married James Boney Jones; Sarah Caroline, who married John Calvin Newton; Melissa Jane (December 21, 1857-January 4, 1940), who married on April 1877, David Poindexter Averitt, and with him had a family of nine children. Esther, Susan and Melissa married in North Carolina, and th moved away with their husbands to Georgia. Esther lived in Pooler, Georgia, and Melissa in Stateboro. Sidonia Pettaway Bland married Isaac R. Newton.

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[1] Information about the family of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alder man is derived from Parker, pp. 94-97, 99 and passim, as well as Willi Graham Bland's, "James Bland of New Hanover County, North Carolina." Stephen McLeod to Charles L. Bland, November 30, 1981. In the Wells Chapel cemetery, there is a tombstone which reads, "Isaac Newton Blanc died 1874, aged about 74 years, and his wife, Mary Alderman, died 1843 age about 40."

The only son of Milton Bland and Elizabeth Turner, Solomon Newton Bland was born January 13, 1867 and died September 30, 1950. He was a merchant and lived near Willard, in Pender County, North Carolina. Solomon married Varina Davis Newton on January 13, 1886. Varina's dates were March 14, 1863 to June 22, 1900. Solomon and Varina had four children (sixteenth generation), including: Rossie Bell Bland (1886-) who married Nova Register; Sarah Elizabeth Bland (1888-1918) who married Herbert S. Bland (a cousin) in 1911;[1] Liston Elionidas Bland (1892-1909); and Mary Beulah Bland (1896-) who married Thomas J. Carr in 1914. Following the death of Varina Davis Newton in 1900, Solomon Newton Bland married October 30, 1904, Flossie Newton, a cousin of his first wife. Flossie was born March 3, 1880 and died July 15, 1959. Solomon Bland and Flossie Newton had two children (sixteenth generation): Barnie Lee (1910-) who married Jessie Howard in 1935; and Newton Curtis (1912-), who married Christine Wells in 1937.

The second child of Isaac Newton Bland (thirteenth generation) and Mary Alderman, was Martha Ann Bland who was born November 15, 1829 and died November 29, 1912. Martha married twice. Her first husband, whom she married on May 6, 1854, was David J. Newton (1828-1855), and by him had one daughter. David Newton died shortly after Martha gave birth to their only child, and on May 30, 1858, Martha married James Rooks (1813-1870) and by him had six children. Many of Martha Bland Newton Rooks' children survived into the 20th century.

The third child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was Esther Bland, whose dates were April 5, 1832 to February 2, 1882. Esther never married.

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1 See p. 310, note 1.

The fourth child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was James Finley Bland (fourteenth generation) who was born September 23, 1834 and died September 24, 1908. James Finley was a soldier in Company E, 18th North Carolina Regiment, C.S.A. He was born in Sampson County, North Carolina, but after the Civil War, moved to Mayesville, South Carolina. Parker described him as a man of boundless energy, who engaged in lumbering, turpentine farming, and merchandising. He married on October 1, 1872, Mary M. Johnson, whose birthdate was September 10, 1844. James Finley Bland and Mary Johnson had three sons (fifteenth generation) whom Parker indicates were successful businessmen in Mayesville and Sumter, South Carolina, and whose lives bridged the 20th century. They were: Robert Johnson Bland (1873-1935) who married Jane Poole in 1898;[1] James Finley Bland, Jr. (1876-) who married Martha Barriner in 1904; and Hamilton C. Bland (1882-) who married Corilla Hawley in 1905.

The fifth child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was William Bland (fourteenth generation), who was born January 13, 1837 and died March 8, 1917. William Bland was an ambitious young man, a bright star of sorts. He joined the Confederate Army and served throughout the War Between the States. After the war, he returned to North Carolina and obtained his Bachelor of Arts degree from Wake Forest College. During his life he was a Baptist preacher and also was the first principal of

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[1] Robert Johnston Bland and Jane Poole had a son (sixteenth generation Robert Purdy Bland, who married Mary Allene Carroll. They were the parents of Robert Purdy Bland, Jr., of Sumter, South Carolina (seventeent generation) whose children Robert Purdy Bland III, Myles Curtis Perrin Bland, and Kingsland Wadick Bland, all minor children in 1981, are (eighteenth generation). Letter, Dr. Robert P. Bland, Jr. to C. L. Bland, November 27, 1981.

the Mingo High School, organized about 1880 in Sampson County, North Carolina. He devoted much of his life to the enhancement of the Mingo school.

William married on January 27, 1882, Ellen Newton, whose dates were March 3, 1858 to April 8, 1939. They had a family of nine children (fifteenth generation) whose lives extended into the 20th century: Manly Bland (1883-1921) married Ella Rivers; Clio Bland (1885-) married Ella Jackson; Farris Bland (1887-1888); Rena Bland (1889-) married George Ferrell; Donnie Bland (1891-1891); Cyrus Bland (1892-1922), never married; Florence Bland (1894-1921), never married; Allie Bland (1896-), never married; and Rosa Bland (1898-1929), never married.

The sixth child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was Mary Elizabeth Bland (fourteenth generation), born October 7, 1839 and died January 10, 1908. Mary Elizabeth married J. R. Register (1848-1899). The seventh child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was Lavinia, who was born January 18, 1842 and died April 30, 1915. She married Thomas Vann on February 1, 1866.

The eighth child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman, was John Thomas Bland, who was born October 26, 1843 and died May 3, 1913. Of John Thomas Bland's life, Parker learned only that he served in the C.S.A., Company A, 41st North Carolina Regiment. After the war, he returned home to marry Susan Rebecca Highsmith on May 6, 1869. Susan's dates were January 18, 1850 to February 6, 1916. John Thomas Bland and Susan Highsmith were parents of nine children (fifteenth generation) born between 1870-1892, whose lives bridged the 19th and 20th centuries:

Lillie A. Bland (1870-1916) married Ralph Highsmith in 1899; Mary Irene Bland (1873-) married H. G. Gromartie in 1907; Susan A. Bland (1876-) married Lewis B. Highsmith in 1900; Ellen Ivey Bland (1878-1914) married J. Pett Newton in 1913; Ethel O. Bland, November 27, 1881, married W. B. Register in 1904; Herbert S. Bland (1884-) married first Elizabeth Bland (1888-1918), a cousin in 1911,[1] and second, Estelle Brice in 1919; Norma Pauline Bland (1889-) married Luther Register in 1912; and Iola F. Bland (1892-1908), did not marry.

The ninth child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was Sarah E. Bland. She was born September 12, 1845 and died September 2, 1914. She married R. F. Pigford on May 9, 1867. The tenth and final child of Isaac Newton Bland and Mary Alderman was Jemima Bland, who was born June 4, 1847 and died September 23, 1872, unmarried.

This concludes information about the children of Isaac Newton Bland (thirteenth generation) and Mary Alderman. Isaac was the first son and third child of James Bland (twelfth generation) and Esther Newton. Their fourth child was Jemima Bland (born in 1811), who married about 1830 Benjamin Rogers (1810-1908).[2] Mary Bland, the fifth child of James Bland and Esther Newton, married Reuben Rogers, Jr.[3] Benjamin and Reuben Rogers, according to Parker, were brothers, and their mother was named Christian Alderman. This means that the children of these two marriages were double first cousins. By now, the reader is aware that the cousin relationships between the Blands, Rogers, Aldermans, Newtons Powells, Parkers and Pages in the Duplin County area were dense and prolific.

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1 See p. 307, note 1.

2 Stephen McLeod to Charles Bland, December 15, 1981.

3 Ibid. Mary died soon after her marriage to Reuben Rogers, Jr. Their daughter, Elizabeth, died in her infancy.

The sixth child of James Bland and Esther Newton was Amariah Bland, who was born January 21, 1809 and died November 1, 1869. Amariah Bland is the ancestral grandfather of a key correspondent to the author, William Graham Bland of Jacksonville, Florida. Graham indicates, through recollections of elder persons who knew Amariah, that he was a man of great dignity, fine bearing, and reserved manner. About 1854, Amariah purchased a tract of land near Rose Hill, North Carolina, and built a house upon it that was occupied by Blands until about 1889, and is still standing near Rose Hill, North Carolina. Graham Bland tells a story of two Union soldiers who were killed and buried near the Amariah Bland house during the Civil War. According to legend, Anne Eliza Young, wife of Amariah's son, George Washington Bland, was spooked by the sight of an apparition of a horse and phantom rider galloping past her house, a short distance from the Amariah Bland house, which might have been one of these Union soldiers who went South to die, far, far from home. So says Graham Bland![1]

About 1830, Amariah Bland married Mary Page, who was, as noted previously,[2] a sister of Dorcas Page, who married Amariah's half-brother, Daniel White Bland (thirteenth generation, C.1796-1871). Amariah and Mary Page Bland had a large family of eleven children (fourteenth generation) including: (1) Sarah Ann Bland (1832-1861); (2) John James Bland (1834-1864); (3) George Washington Bland (1836-1906); (4) Mary Elizabeth Bland (1838-1912); (5) David Bland (1840-1862); (6) Joseph Marion Bland (1842-1843); (7) Esther Caroline Bland (1844-1844);

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1 William Graham Bland, "Amariah Bland's Island Creek Plantation House, Near Rose Hill, Duplin County, North Carolina," The Exchange, Southern Genealogist Exchange Society (July 1981).

2 Cf. pp. 296-297.

(8) Abram Francis Bland (1845-1918); (9) Benjamin Franklin Bland (1848-1916); (1) William Rufus King Bland (1852-1903); and (11) Gaston Amariah Wilder Bland (1857-1932).

The first child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Sarah Ann Bland, who was born April 21, 1832 and died December 19, 1861. On December 16, 1856, Sarah married Charles Wright Savage (1831-1916), and by him had three children: a son and two daughters, all of whom lived into the 20th century.[1]

The second child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was John James Bland, who was born May 19, 1834 and died in 1864. He married Mary C. Johnson on February 26, 1863. Nothing more is known about this couple. It may be that in their brief marriage, no children resulted.

The third child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was George Washington Bland, who was born March 4, 1836 and died April 2, 1906. He married Anne Eliza Young on February 14, 1875. Anne was born August 25, 1850 and died June 19, 1927. There were six children (fifteenth generation), by this marriage, including:

Franklin Thomas Bland, who was born November 29, 1875 and died October 29, 1893; Amariah Bland, who styled himself "Amy R. Bland," born May 15, 1877 and died November 9, 1954.[2] Amy R. Bland married Adell Scott (1890-1957) and they had two children (sixteenth generation): Anne Katharine Scott Bland (August 26, 1914-still living), and Amy R. Bland, Jr. (1921-1977). The third child of George Washington

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1 William Graham Bland supplied to the author a brief genealogical statement that extends the descendants of Sarah Ann Bland and Charles Wright Savage up to the present day. The statement was prepared by Mrs. Robert H. Walker, of Wilmington, N.C.

2 Per William Graham Bland (September 3, 1920-still living) letter 1/8/82: "Anne Katharine Scott Bland's father, Amy R. Bland, was the first member of our branch of the family to express a genuine interest in the Bland family history and...he was the first to conduct any rese

George Washington Bland
(1836-1906)

Anne Eliza Young Bland
(1850-1927)

Courtesy: William Graham Bland.

TABLE XXI

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BLAND OF DUPLIN COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(10) William Bland (C. 1726-1775) = _____.

(11) William Bland (C. 1748-1816) = Rachel Powell, about 1769.*

(12-1)

James Bland (C. 1770-1818)

(A) Jemima Alderman (1773-1800), about 1795.

(13-1) Daniel White Bland (1796-1871), married Dorcas Page.

(13-2) William Bland (C. 1797-1873), married Susannah Alderman.

(13-3) Edith Bland (C. 1800-), married John Fryar.

(B) Esther Newton (1779-1854) about 1801.

(13-1) Anna Bland (1802-1847), married Enoch Alderman.

(13-2) Isaac Newton Bland (1803-1875), married Mary Elizabeth Alderman.

(13-3) Dorcas Bland, married John Blanton.

(13-4) Jemima Bland (1811-), married Benjamin Rogers.

(13-5) Mary Bland, married Reuben Rogers.

(13-6) Amariah Bland (1809-1869), married Mary Page.

(13-7) James Thomas Bland (1810-1886), married (1) Dinah Alderman; (2) Margaret Hendry

(13-8) David Bland

(13-9) Enoch Bland (1815-1871).

(13-10) Timothy Bland (1818-1883), married (1) Adeline Ward; (2) Ala Bradshaw.

(12-2)

William Bland (1771-1854), married Mary Parker about 1793.

(13-1) Rachel Bland, married (1) Joshua Lee; (2) William Powell.

(13-2) Lucretia Bland, married William Newton.

(13-3) James Bland (1798-1862), married Mary Powell.

(13-4) Nancy Bland (1799-1845), married Bryan Lee.

(13-5) Susannah Bland (1800-1887), married (1) Ephraim Johnson; and (2) Naaman Stephens.

(13-6) Elizabeth Bland (1802-1842), married Jacob Highsmith.

* William Bland (eleventh generation) and Rachel Powell had a daughter Elizabeth, who married Isaac Newton.

Bland and Anne Eliza Young was John David Bland, who was born June 24, 1879 and died July 31, 1958. John David Bland married Elizabeth Irene Ezzell (1890-1934) and they had two children, a son, William Graham Bland who was born September 3, 1920, and a daughter, Mary Belle Bland (February 28, 1923-), who married Marvin Lorenzo Pound. Following the death of his first wife, Elizabeth Irene Ezzell in 1934, John David Bland remarried on January 10, 1935, to Josephine Johnson (1894-1962).

The fourth and fifth children of George Washington Bland and Anne Eliza Young were Mary Jane Bland (February 14, 1881-December 10, 1893), and Anne Julia Bland (October 11, 1883-August 31, 1885). The sixth and final child of George Washington Bland and Anne Eliza Young was Willie Washington Bland who was born July 18, 1886 and died September 9, 1939. Willie married Berta Knowles Heath.

The fourth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Mary Eliza Bland, who was born April 11, 1838 and died April 29, 1912. She married William W. Mallard (-1913) on March 20, 1856. David Bland, born February 22, 1840 and died March 8, 1862, was the fifth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page. David was the first of Amariah and Mary's children to be buried in the family center and his grave originated what is now the Rose Hill North Carolina Cemetery. Amariah Bland inscribed upon David's tombstone (David is buried beside his parents) a passage that is simple, eloquent, and a perfect inspiration for genealogists: "...to live in the hearts we leave behind, is not to die."[1]

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[1] William Graham Bland, "Rose Hill Cemetery Approaches Hundredth Year, Was Begun by Bland Family in 1862," The Wallace Enterprise, July 24, 1961.

The sixth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Joseph Marion Bland (September 12, 1842-December 1843). The death of baby Joseph was followed quickly by a daughter's infant death. She was Ester Caroline Bland (August 5, 1844-November 1844).

The eighth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Abram Francis Bland, born December 18, 1845 and died August 31, 1918. Abram married Harriet Dobson (1853-1906) on April 24, 1873. According to an historian of this family, Grover Dobson Bland, Jr., of Raleigh, North Carolina, Abram Francis Bland and Harriet Dobson had a family of seven children (fifteenth generation), including: (1) Margaret Juanita Bland (March 11, 1874 to June 20, 1946), who married John C. McMillan (1863-1932); (2) Mary Bland (February 29, 1876 to December 12, 1927) who married Henry Franklin Boney (1875-1950); (3) Coy Bland (March 10, 1877 to March 30, 1938) who married Gabrielle Robinson; (4) Louise Bland (May 24, 1883 to May 29, 1950) who married H. D. McMillan (1871-1954); (5) Daniel Graham Bland (January 18, 1888 to 1943) married Willie Wall; (6) Grover Dobson Bland (September 22, 1892 to August 4, 1930) married Ruth Teachey (1892-1927). Grover Dobson and Ruth Teachey had three children, including a son, Grover Dobson Bland, Jr. (sixteenth generation) (April 5, 1922-), the genealogist of this branch, identified above. (7) John Hanby Bland (born January 12, 1896-).[1]

The ninth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Benjamin Franklin Bland, who was born May 23, 1848 and died August 4, 1916.

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[1] Grover Dobson Bland, Jr., "Abram Francis Bland and Harriet Dobson Bland, Teachey, Duplin County, North Carolina, and Their Descendants." This genealogy was supplied to the author by William Graham Bland.

Benjamin married Ada Caroline Cook (1860-1913) on February 2, 1879. The historian of this branch of the Bland family, Mrs. James H. Booth, of Kenansville, North Carolina, indicates that Benjamin Franklin Bland and Ada Cook had a family of eleven children (fifteenth generation), including:

(1) Charles Adrian Bland (January 28, 1880-August 18, 1937); (2) Repiton Amariah Bland (September 13, 1881-December 18, 1948), who married Annie Iola Rooks (1895-) on February 13, 1916; (3) Ora Catherine Bland (October 2, 1882-October 8, 1960); (4) Benjamin Franklin Bland, Jr. (January 12, 1884-February 9, 1964); (5) Henry Pryson Bland (May 14, 1886-); (6) Philip Dodrige Bland (September 25, 1887-February 15, 1964); (7) Arthur Pritchard Bland (May 1, 1889-April 21, 1890); (8) Leroy Bland (August 18, 1890-November 17, 1940); (9) Mary Virginia (Jennie) Bland (September 22-1892-)married James Henry Booth on November 12, 1919; (1) Bertha Caroline Bland (August 21, 1894-July 26, 1902); (11) Ada Cook Bland (September 17, 1897-) who married David L. Pigford on December 23, 1928.[1]

The tenth child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was William Rufus King Bland, who was born April 29, 1852 and died on June 30, 1903. On May 25, 1873, William married Mary Catherine Young (1848-1893), a sister of Anne Eliza Young, who married George Washington Bland, a brother of William Rufus King Bland. This couple had a family of twelve children (fifteenth generation) including: (1) Jacob Junius Bland (April 14, 1874-June 28, 1901); (2) Mary Susan Bland (February 10, 1877-October 19, 1903); (3) William Francis Bland (February 1, 1879-

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[1] Mrs. James H. Booth. Untitled genealogy of the family of Benjamin Franklin Bland and Ada Caroline Cook. A copy of this work was supplied to the author by William Graham Bland.

August 4, 1903); (4) David Calvin Bland (April 19, 1881-) who married Matilda Hanchey on March 8, 1903; (5) Laura Catherine Bland (September 3, 1882-); (6) Jesse King Bland (April 14, 1885-November 6, 1886); (7) Julia Norma Bland (July 16, 1895-); (8) Mabel Ruth Bland (July 1897-); (9) Annie Elizabeth Graham Bland (June 30, 1899-); (10) Arthur Bland (born and died August 27, 1900); (11) Shuler Divine Bland (August 29, 1901-); (12) William Rufus Bland, Jr. (February 14, 1904-).

The eleventh child of Amariah Bland and Mary Page was Gaston Amariah Wilder Bland, who was born May 18, 1857 and died in 1932. "Willie," as he was called, married Annie Mason. When they were married or whether they had children does not appear.

This concludes the family of Amariah Bland (thirteenth generation) and his wife, Mary Page. Amariah was the sixth child of James Bland and Esther Newton.

Their seventh child was James Thomas Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born December 30, 1810 and died August 23, 1886. He lived most of his life on Long Creek or Moore's Creek, in Sampson County, North Carolina and had a reputation as a good citizen. James Thomas Bland married two women. His first wife was Dinah Alderman, whom he married sometime in the 1830's. Her dates were October 20, 1813, and she died in 1850. James Thomas Bland and Dinah Alderman had a family of six children (fourteenth generation): Daniel P. Bland (-1903) married Eliza Corbett; Hanson Alderman Bland (1841-1912) married Sarah Ann Moore, a cousin, on January 1, 1878. Hanson served as a solider in Company A, North Carolina 41st Regiment, C.S.A. Hanson Bland and Sarah Moore had a son (fifteenth generation), Franklin P. Bland (1878-1927) who married Verra Garvis. Franklin and Verra had two daughters.

Parker says of him, "he was faithful in all things and left a rich moral legacy for his children."[1] Hanson Alderman Bland and Sarah Moore had two other sons: Aaron Thomas Bland (1880-) who married Irene Corbett in 1903; and Henry Alderman Bland (1883-) who married Ruby Williams in 1907.

The remaining children of James Thomas Bland and Dinah Alderman (thirteenth generation) were four daughters: Nancy, who married Robert Henry; Margaret (1844-1912) who married Dixon Bowden; Sarah, who married James Corbett; and Dinah, who married William G. Moore.

Upon the death of Dinah Alderman, James Thomas Bland married Margaret Hendry of Pender County. They had a child, the Honorable J. T. Bland of Pender County, who supplied most of the information about the Blands that Parker received.

The eighth child of James Bland (twelfth generation) and Esther Newton was David Bland, who died as a young man and never married. The ninth child of James Bland and Esther Newton was Enoch Bland, who was born in 1815 and died March 21, 1871.[2]

The tenth and final child in the marriage of James Bland (twelfth generation) and Esther Newton, was Timothy Bland, who was born on May 29, 1818 and died September 1, 1883. According to Ann Bland Morris, who has compiled a genealogy of Timothy's family, he lived in a village called Goshen Creek, near Kenansville, North Carolina, in Duplin County.[3] Timothy was described by an old timer who knew him as a tall man. I

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1 Parker, p. 208.

2 This date is recorded in a family Bible now owned by Laura Lee Vanns, of Harrells, North Carolina. Stephen McLeod to Charles Bland, December 15, 1981.

3 Cf. Graham Bland and Ann Bland Morris, The Bland Family of Rocky Mount, North Carolina (1977).

have seen a tintype of Timothy in Ann Morris' genealogy. It shows a man with a somewhat outdated beard for the fashion of his day, a derby hat poised atop his great round head, with a very alert, intelligent expression. Timothy married two women and fathered sixteen children. His first wife was Adline Ward, whom he married May 13, 1841. She was born May 7, 1825 and died December 13, 1861. In the twenty years they were married Timothy and Adline had eleven children (fourteenth generation):

(1) Mary Elizabeth Bland, who was born May 13, 1842. She married Daniel Teachey on January 12, 1860. (2) Samuel James Bland, who was born October 26, 1843 and died March 10, 1910. Samuel served during the Civil War and was known around Duplin County as "Captain." Whether he married and had children does not appear in Mrs. Morris' history. (3) Frasanah Caroline Bland, who was born September 5, 1845, and about whom nothing more is known. (4) William Jefferson Bland, born October 25, 1847 and died in 1918. Known among his friends as "Billy,"[1] William Jefferson Bland moved to the town of Willard in Pender County. He married three times, first to a woman named Lucy _____ who died two years after their marriage. There were no children by this marriage. William Jefferson Bland's second wife was Jane Lee Willard, by whom he had two children (fifteenth generation): Callie Jane Bland (January 24, 1878-July 30, 1960), who married James L. Mills, Jr. on February 19, 1896; and Tommie Attie Bland, who was born January 1, 1876 and died July 7, 1967. Those who knew him described Tommie Attie Bland as a tall, stately man with beautiful white hair,

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[1] "Billy" is a nickname stuck to southern Williams, be they saints or scamps, e.g., Billy Graham and Billy Carter.

soft spoken, quiet and very easy going. He was a Baptist minister who tended to be a little long winded in his sermons. He married first Nancy Catherine Rivenbark (1879-1935) on March 10, 1897. On April 9, 1939, he married Ella Ayers (February 16, 1896-June 30, 1954) and traveled with her throughout Mexico and the United States. Of the various children of Tommie Attie Bland, the most significant was Samuel William Bland (sixteenth generation, March 2, 1902-January 7, 1966), who was the father, through his marriage in August 1928 to Pearl Elizabeth Whitfield (1907-), of Samuel Bland, Jr. (seventeenth generation) who was born April 14, 1929, and had by his wife, Faye Jennie Lawson, a daughter, Faye Annette Bland (eighteenth generation), who married Samuel Webster Morris, and is thus Ann Bland Morris, the author of the Timothy Bland genealogy.

The fifth child of Timothy Bland and Adline Ward was Ann Victoria Bland, born April 3, 1849. The sixth child was Helen Frances Bland (February 23, 1851-August 26, 1862). The seventh child was Sarah Sylvania Bland who was born on November 14, 1852. The eighth child of Timothy Bland and Adline Ward was Edwin Jay Bland, born August 22, 1854 and died August 23, 1896. The ninth child was Cornelia Adeline Bland, born May 20, 1856. The tenth child was John Clifton Calhoun Bland, who was born March 2, 1858 and died September 9, 1962. The eleventh child was Emma Estelle Bland, born August 9, 1860.

Eleven children in twenty years is quite a lot of work for a woman, and Adline Ward gave out and died in 1861 at the early age of thirty-six. It is interesting to note that there is a gap in childbirths for Timothy until 1867, suggesting among other things that he might have served a stint in the Civil War, before returning home and

meeting his second wife, Ala Bradshaw (July 12, 1836-June 5, 1924), whom he must have married in 1865 or 1866. Timothy and Ala had a family of five children (fourteenth generation), including: (1) Ester Isabella Bland, born January 1, 1867; (2) Mary Jane Culbreth Bland, born July 24, 1868; (3) Romulous Timothy Bland, born October 17, 1871; (4) Jemima Bathsheba Bland, born June 7, 1874, who married Joe Wood;[1] (5) Bessa Newton Bland (January 20, 1877-September 4, 1949) who married David W. Johnson.

This concludes the family of Blands in New Hanover, Duplin and Sampson Counties, North Carolina, who descended from James Bland (C.1770-1818, twelfth generation) and his two wives, Jemima Alderman and Esther Newton.

Disconnected Connection: From Chatham County, North Carolina to Greene County, Indiana

It is easy to see that the descendants of William Bland (eighth generation) through his son James (ninth generation) were both numberous, coherent in composition and antecedent beneficiaries of a quite extensive family interest in genealogy, by which a great many distinct and credibly documented lines have been preserved.

A great deal however remains to be discovered about the descendants of James Bland (ninth generation). James had two sons (tenth generation), James Buchanan Bland and William Bland. All of the information on pages 282-320 is concerned with the descendants of William Bland. Of James Buchanan, it is known that he was still living

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[1] Joe Wood and Jemima Bathsheba Bland were the parents of Naomi Wood, now living in Wilmington, North Carolina.

in 1771,[1] by which time he was probably in his forties, but nothing further is known of him. The absence of records may indicate that he moved away after the death of his father, possibly back to Virginia or to Kentucky. The bottom line, however, is that nobody knows what happened to him.

Similarly, three young sons (eleventh generation) mentioned in the 1775 will of William Bland (tenth generation) of Duplin County, North Carolina, are in terms of present knowledge not conclusively traceable. They are Thomas, Charles and James. James was old enough to be William's co-executor, with his brother William (C.1748-1816), but the other two children, Thomas and Charles, who must have been minors when their father made his will in 1775, have not been traced through adulthood.

Although similar names appear later in North Carolina records, there is nothing to concretely tie the later records to these individuals.

One must be careful in attempting to delineate later Blands in the Eastern County area. Primarily, there were Bland names found in the late 18th century in New Hanover and Duplin Counties. Also, in Randolph County a well-defined family of Blands descending from William Bland (eighth generation) through his son Moses Bland, was established.[2] Early in the 19th century, most of this family began to migrate to Kentucky and Indiana. There remains the possibility that some of the sons of James Buchanan Bland or William Bland (tenth generation), or both, migrated from the New Hanover/Duplin County area and settled in

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1 Cf. P. 282, note 1.

2 Cf. pp. 342 ff.

Chatham County, to the North, which was founded in 1770 from Orange County.[1] That these Chatham County Blands apparently belong to the family founded by James Bland (ninth generation) is reinforced by the fact that James' grandson, John Bland (eleventh generation son of William Bland), settled and died in Chatham County.

It is useful to note the identifiable families of Blands who were in Chatham County in 1790. According to the bare information provided in the first census there appeared to be two distinct families:[2]

	James Bland	John Bland
Adult Males (over 16)	1	1
Minor Males (under 16)	5	0
Females	2	2

Even this information is problematical, because if the John Bland listed above is the same man who was presumably eleventh generation (1760-1827) discussed on pages 284-293 , one would have to ask, where were two minor sons, James and William "Buck" Bland, whose identities are known, and who would have been minor children in 1790, as would a daughter, Elizabeth. The more promising line of inquiry would appear to be James Bland, who had in his family five minor sons in 1790, all

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1 David Leroy Corbett, The Formation of North Carolina Counties: 1663-1943 (Raleigh, North Carolina: Third Printing, 1975), p. 61. One should also be alert to the possibility that these unlinked Blands in Chatham County may have been descendants of William through his son Moses, since Randolph and Chatham Counties are adjacent and both were carved from what was originally Orange County.

2 One should note, however, that there were two families of William Blands: one in Duplin County, enumerating one adult male and two females and one in New Hanover County, enumerating two adult males and three females. (Evidently, James died or moved away from Chatham County betwe 1790-1800, for he was not enumerated in the Chatham County census of 18

of whom would have been born in 1774 or later. This James Bland could have been the (eleventh generation) son of William Bland (tenth generation). He would have been born sometime between 1749-1754. In 1790, he would be in his late thirties, logically married about fifteen years, and the father, by the above record, of six minor children, including five sons and one daughter. I wish to emphasize, however, that this conclusion is very tentative, and is only offered as a possibility. At present, there are no wills or deeds that would indicate when this James Bland died, or the names of his wife and children.[1] It is a question that sorely needs to be answered. At present, there is only indirect proof linking this James Bland chronologically backward to a parent, or forward to a wife and children.

One couple who have worked tirelessly to find the missing link is Mr. and Mrs. Albert Hunter, of State College, Pennsylvania. Mr. Hunter's furthest back ancestor is Jacob Bland, who was born no later than 1779, and by 1800 was an adult head of household in Chatham County, but sometime during the 1820's moved his family to Greene County in southern Indiana, where he died May 13, 1839.

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[1] Most of my information for what follows is derived from letters from Mr. Hunter to Doris Bland Melia, of Dodge City, Kansas, November 3, 1979 and March 23, 1980; Hunter to Alice Phillips Garrison, North Carolina, April 9, 1980; a 1980 fragment of a letter never finished; and numerous letters to the author. Mr. Hunter's assistance was indispensable to completion of this section. Albert Hunter wrote me on December 6, 1981: "There does exist a receipt for military service of a James Bland, in Wilmington District, near the end of the Revolution. If you don't account for him otherwise, and accept Castelloe Denton's ancestry from John of Duplin, who moved to Chatham, then it would be logical to assume that James of Chatham was John's brother, and served as a soldier from Duplin, later moving to Chatham."

In 1800, the Chatham County, North Carolina census enumerates a family headed by Jacob Bland in which there are, in addition to Jacob, a woman aged 26-45 (possibly Jacob's mother), a male aged 10-16, and a female under 10. There is no woman enumerated who would be Jacob's wife (the exceptional possibility being that Jacob was by then close to twenty-six, and his wife, enumerated as 26-45, just a year or so older than twenty-six). Even so, Jacob could hardly be the father of a male, aged 10-16. Rather, it appears that Jacob was head of a household for an extended family, possibly including his mother and two younger siblings. Further, the census lists Jacob Bland living alongside a "Barshaby" Bland, head of a household which enumerates one female over 45, one female 16-26, one male 10-16, and two males under 10. Barshaby appears to be a corruption of Bathsheba, which occurs later in the family, when Timothy Bland (thirteenth generation) named a daughter born in 1874, Jemima Bathsheba Bland.[1] By 1800, Bathsheba, or Barshaby, appears to have been fairly old, possibly having earlier married into the Bland family.[2] A close connection between Jacob and Bathsheba is suggested by their close geographic proximity. Further, however, there is recorded a will of Esther Rowan in New Hanover County, dated January 2, 1788, which suggests a connection between Bathsheba,

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1 Again, this would reinforce the connection between the Chatham County and Duplin County Blands, as would the name Jacob. There was, as seen on preceding pages, considerable intermarriage between the Bland and Newton families, one of whose founders was Jacob Newton.

2 So much about Jacob is speculative that perhaps it will do no further harm to add that it is possible Bathsheba was Jacob's mother.

Jacob and that county. In it, Esther Rowan wills her property to Elizabeth Richards, her daughter, but stipulates that if Elizabeth fails to bear children, the whole would descend to "my god-daughter, Bathsheba Bland."[1]

Exactly how this Bland-Rowan relationship works out has not appeared. It is interesting, however, to note that about 1801, Jacob Bland married Nancy Richardson who, as later shown in Greene County, Indiana census records, was born in 1779. She was the daughter of George Richardson and still living in 1860.

Jacob Bland and his wife were enumerated in the 1820 census in Chatham County, but in 1830 were in Greene County, Indiana, one of four Bland families there by 1830.

Jacob sold 50 acres of land on the south side of the Haw River in 1816, and was found on a tax poll in Chatham County in 1815, along with Henry, Thomas, Francis and Joseph. Interestingly, the 1830 census for Greene County, Indiana shows four families headed by Jacob, aged 50-60 (he was probably 51 or over at the time): Francis, aged 30-40; Thomas, aged 40-50; and William, aged 40-50. This would seem to make a fairly strong case that Jacob, Francis and Thomas, and William were brothers.

In summary then, there is the possibility, based upon juxtaposition of dates, location and ages, that Jacob Bland was the son of one of the older sons of William Bland (tenth generation). As stated, the most likely parent for Jacob would be James Bland, enumerated as head of a household including five minor males in 1790. If true, this James

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[1] New Hanover County Will Book C, January 2, 1788, p. 372, cited in personal communication to Charles Bland, December 6, 1981.

would have been the son of William (tenth generation) and would have been born between 1749-1754; thus, would be 36-41 in 1790. The appearance of a father-son relationship between James (eleventh generation) and Jacob, Francis, Thomas and William is strong enough to warrant classification of the latter four males as twelfth generation.

Jacob Bland (twelfth generation) and Nancy Richardson had a family of eight children (thirteenth generation), all of them born at Pittsboro, in Chatham County, North Carolina, and all moved with Jacob and Nancy to Greene County, Indiana.[1] They were: (1) Nancy Richardson Bland; (2) Permelia Bland; (3) Mary Bland; (4) Zina Bland; (5) Rebecca Bland; (6) James Jacob Bland; (7) Robert Henry Bland; (8) Sarah C. Bland.

The first child, Nancy Richardson Bland, was born December 5, 1802, and died June 24, 1876. She married on January 5, 1825, Richard Pope. Richard Pope and Nancy Richardosn Bland are buried in the Wall Cemetery, Tulip Township, in Greene County.[2] The second child of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson, Permelia, or perhaps Pamela, was born in 1805 and died about 1883. In the Greene County census for 1860 she is shown living alone in the Highland Township, aged 55, a weaver by trade. The third child was Mary Bland, who was born in 1807. The date of her death is unknown. She married Wiatt Miller on June 21, 1826. The fourth child of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson was Zina

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1 In a personal communication, Albert Hunter related to the author a story in which as a young boy, his grandmother took him to the cemetery in Tulip (Wall Cemetery) where her husband, a daughter, and her parents were buried. There she pointed out a tree, which had grown from a branch some of the early Blands had brought from North Carolina. Information about the family of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson is derived from the 1860 census for Greene County, Indiana, as well as a family group sheet supplied the author by Albert Hunter.

2 The Wall Cemetery was about one-quarter mile from the home of Jacob Bland (twelfth generation).

Bland, who was born in 1809 and died at an unknown date after 1860, when she is listed in the Greene County census as a 51-year-old weaver, living with her mother and her sister Permelia.

The fifth child of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson was Rebecca Bland, who was born April 11, 1813 and died June 10, 1865. Rebecca married Mark Clark on June 18, 1840.[1] The final daughter, and eighth child of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson, was Sarah Bland, who married George Wilkie on January 30, 1840.

There were two sons born to Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson, and for purposes of continuity in the narrative, the youngest, Robert Henry Bland, should be discussed first. Robert Henry was born March 7, 1817 and died September 28, 1869. He was a soldier in the Civil War, serving with the Indiana Volunteers, 43rd Infantry, Company C. Robert Henry Bland married on March 6, 1837,[2] Chloe Hodges. Chloe was born in Surry County, North Carolina, on August 1, 1816 and died June 17, 1908. Robert Henry and his family are identified in the Greene County census for 1850 and 1860 as farmers, with the older daughters listed as weavers. Robert Henry and Chloe had a family, still intact in 1860, of eight children (fourteenth generation) including:

Name	Year Born
Rebecca	1838
Sarah E.	1840
Nancy	1842
Mary	1845
Joseph	1846
James	1849
William T.	1852
Zina	1855

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1 Early Marriages of Blands in Greene County, Indiana. Supplied by Albert Hunter.

2 Ibid.

Of all these children of Robert Henry Bland and Chloe Hodges, it is known that among the daughters, Sarah Ellen Bland married Marion Bennett on November 8, 1866. Nancy Bland married Charles Wilkie on February 1, 1876. Mary Elizabeth Bland, who was born June 10, 1845, and died in May 1923, married Columbus Jefferson Hunter (1841-1901) on November 1, 1866 in Tulip, Highland Township in Greene County. In the course of their marriage, Columbus Jefferson Hunter and Mary Elizabeth Bland had a family of nine children (fifteenth generation), including a son, Sinclair Hunter (1875-1959), who was the father of a key correspondent for this book, Albert Sinclair Hunter (sixteenth generation), of State College, Pennsylvania, who was born October 21, 1908 in Indiana, and married Mildred Bowers on September 5, 1947.

Among the sons, Joseph Bland, who was born October 8, 1846, married Amanda Shipman on October 8, 1876. Joseph and Amanda had three sons, one of whom was Oscar, born in Greene County, Richland Township on November 21, 1877. Oscar later became a Congressman from Indiana (1917-1923) and in Washington, D.C., became a Judge for the Court of Customs Appeals (1923-1947). Oscar studied at Valparaiso University, took his Classics and Law degree from Indiana University, and began practice in Linton, Greene County in 1901. He was elected to the State Senate of Indiana in 1906. Oscar was a political joiner and community minded man, also with an athletic bent. Oscar loved the wilderness and was a big game hunter. He married Josephine Hanna

on June 18, 1902, and they had a daughter, Helene, who was born in 1903.[1]

James Bland (fourteenth generation), second son of Robert Henry Bland and Chloe Hodges, was born probably February 17, 1849,[2] in Greene County, Indiana, and died in Holton, Kansas, January 21, 1913. James married in 1877 Martha Glover, who was born February 14, 1854 and died October 30, 1925, at Holton, Kansas.

James Bland and Martha Glover had children (fifteenth generation) including a daughter, Wilma Ethel (January 9, 1881-May 15, 1952) who married Philip Stachelbeck, and lived with him in Topeka, Atcheson County, Kansas.

The eldest son of Jacob Bland (twelfth generation) and Nancy Richardson was James Jacob Bland, who was born on September 16, 1815 and died in Greene County, Indiana September 19, 1862. In the 1860 Greene County census, James Jacob Bland was listed as a farmer from North Carolina. He enlisted with his brother, Robert Henry Bland, in the 43rd Indiana Volunteer Army, Company C, on September 9, 1861. Both men were discharged after six months, having contracted a disease, probably dysentery. Robert Henry survived the ordeal; James Jacob

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1 Goodspeeds, cf. p. 336. Biographical Memoirs of Greene County, 3 volumes (Indianapolis: 1908), p. 975. Luella Bland, Brownstown, Indiana, supplied information to Elva Reitz, subsequently supplied to me, that Oscar Bland's father Joseph Bland descended from Nancy Bland, born in 1811, who married a Bland in Indiana (cf. discussion on page 360). This information appears to be erroneous. According to Albert Hunter, Goodspeeds was a paid-for biographical subscription service.

2 James is shown as 1 and 11 in the 1850 and 1860 census of Greene County, Indiana. His tombstone inscription indicates that he was born February 17, 1851. How could he have been counted in the 1850 census if he was born in 1851?

did not, and died about six months after his discharge. James Jacob married on May 7, 1841, Martha J. Monk, who was born on October 2, 1823 and died September 8, 1864. James Jacob and Martha Monk had a family of six sons (fourteenth generation), including:

Robert Henry Bland was born in November 1845. He married Sarah E. _____ apparently about 1868. Sarah was born in August 1850. Records available indicate that Robert Henry and Sarah E. Bland moved to Iowa and lived there during the 1870's, then in 1880 were in Osborne County, Delhi Township in Kansas. In the early 1880's, the family moved to Graham County, Moreland Township in Kansas. The children of Robert Henry Bland and Sarah, his wife, were (fifteenth generation): Charles H. Bland, born in Iowa in 1869. (A Charles N. Bland, born in Iowa April 1870, is found in Russell County, Fairview Township in Kansas in 1900. These are approximate ages and could be the same person. This Charles N. Bland was married to Mary A. _____ born in Michigan, June 1875, and had the following children who would, if the two Charles are the same, be (sixteenth generation): Bina, a daughter born August 1895; Edwin C. Bland, born February 1896; and Robert B. Bland, born October 1898.) Iona Bland, born in Iowa in 1876, Oren or Aren Bland, a son, born in Iowa in July 1879; Dosy Bland (or perhaps Dosha), born March 1884; Forest O. Bland, born December 1885; and Roy L. Bland, born September 1887.

The second son of James Jacob Bland and Martha Monk was Charles Wesley Bland, born in 1848, who appeared in Lincoln Township, Crawford County, Kansas in the 1900 census.[1] Charles Wesley Bland married Emma

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[1] The census taker for Crawford County, Kansas, for 1900 enumerated C. W. Bland as having been born in Kentucky.

_____, who was born April 1854, sometime in the 1870's. Emma was enumerated in 1900 as having been born in Iowa, and the birthplaces of their children indicated that the family was begun in Iowa, and then moved to Missouri before coming to Kansas in the late 1880's. The children of Charles Wesley and Emma Bland (fifteenth generation) were: John Loss Bland, born October 1878 in Iowa; Eva Bland, born March 1883 in Iowa; Asa Bland, born August 1886 in Missouri; and Ophie Bland, born November 1890 in Kansas.[1]

The third son was Fletcher Tivis Bland, born September 1852, and still living in 1900. By 1880, Fletcher was in Osborne County, Delhi Township in Kansas, and was married to his apparently first wife, Lucy _____. They had a single child, a daughter, Lilly (fifteenth generation) born in 1879. By 1900, both Lucy and Lilly were gone, and Fletcher Tivis was married to a woman named Jane _____, born February 1856. There was by Fletcher's second marriage evidently a single surviving son, Chester R. Bland, who was born October 1883.[2]

The fourth son of James Jacob Bland and Martha Monk was William Gillmore Bland, born in March 1856 in Greene County. By 1880, William Gillmore was married to Rebecca J. _____,[3] probably since about 1878. They were living in Madison County, South Township in Iowa, in 1880, but later moved to Warren County, Jefferson Township in Iowa, where they were enumerated in the census of 1900. Their total family

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1 Kansas Census, Osborne County 1880, 1900.

2 Fletcher Tivis Bland was the grandfather of Doris Bland Melia, of Dodge City, Kansas, a chief correspondent with Albert Hunter, though not with the author.

3 William Gillmore Bland had a boarder in 1880, aged 23, named Elbert Wheat, who was born in Iowa, as was William's wife, Rebecca.

was intact in 1900, consisting of six children (fifteenth generation) including: Nellie Bland, born November 1879; Hattie Bland, born November 1881; Frederick Bland, born June 1886; Vina Bland, born February 1889; Elizabeth, born July 1891; Lina, born May 1894.[1]

The fifth son of James Jacob Bland and Martha Monk was Joseph Ellsworth Bland, born in 1859. I have no other information about this son. Information supplied by Virginia Bland Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana, indicates that he was living in the family of Rebecca Sargent in Wayne County, Iowa in 1870. He married Sophia Amy Duncan about 1884, and they had a child (fifteenth generation), Alisa Bland, who was born July 30, 1885.[2]

The marriage of James Jacob Bland (thirteenth generation 1815-1862) to Martha Monk (1823-1864) calls attention to a rather interesting cousin relationship that harks back to the Greene County family's North Carolina origins. Martha Monk was one of five children by Shadrack Monk (1793-1845) and Anna Gillmore (1792-1883). Martha's sister, Rachel Monk (1830-1871) married Simon Bland. Simon Bland was in turn the son of Francis Bland (twelfth generation), who was enumerated in the 1830 census for Greene County, Indiana[3] as head of a household, himself aged 30-40, so he was born about 1790-1800. Francis was from North Carolina, and since there was a Francis Bland on the

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1 Iowa Census, Madison County 1880, and Warren County, 1900.

2 Family of Jacob Bland and Nancy Richardson, based on information supplied by Albert Hunter, Doris Melia, R. E. Wright, and supplied the author by Virginia Bland Cowden.

3 In 1827, Francis bought 70 acres in Highland Township, Greene County, Section 28, Township 8, about one mile from Jacob Bland (twelfth generation). In 1829, Thomas bought 80 acres in Richland Township, Greene County, about 2-3 miles south of Francis. Apparently, these assumed Bland brothers bought their land just far enough apart so they would not have to listen to each other's marital feuds.

tax lists of Chatham County in 1815,[1] it is not unreasonable to assume that Francis Bland was born there. He married Elizabeth Langley from South Carolina. She was enumerated in the 1830 Greene County, Indiana census as aged 20-30. According to a history of Greene County, Francis and Elizabeth were married in Kentucky.[2] After their marriage, Francis Bland and Elizabeth, his wife, moved to Orange County, Indiana, and subsequently settled in the Highland Township of Greene County, Indiana in November 1821. The history of Greene County indicates that Francis and Elizabeth had five daughters and three sons, including one who died in infancy.[3] This more or less conforms to the 1830 census enumeration which shows, in addition to Francis and Elizabeth, one son aged 5-10 (Simon), a daughter under 5, a daughter aged 5-10, a daughter aged 10-15, and a woman aged 40-50, living in the household. This older woman may have been Mourning Bland, who was born about 1782, and she might have been a sister of Francis Bland. Francis died in 1833 and Elizabeth died in 1861. A good deal of this information suggests a sibling relationship between Jacob Bland and Francis Bland, though it is hypothetical. If true, however, this would place Francis in the twelfth generation, and his son, Simon Bland, in the thirteenth.

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1 Cf. p. 325.

2 I have examined an extensive amount of information on Kentucky marriages involving Blands in the applicable time frame, including information supplied the author by Jessamine James (November 28, 1980) and by Bertha Dunn, of Delia, Kansas, which was sent to her I believe by Richard Smith, of DeKalb, Illinois. I have not yet found a record of this marriage between Francis Bland and Elizabeth Langley.

3 History of Greene and Sullivan Counties, State of Indiana (Chicago: Goodspeed Brothers & Co: 1884, reprinted in Evansville, Indiana, 1974), p. 417.

Simon Bland was born December 27, 1823, and he was still living in 1883 when Goodspeed's History of Greene County was published in 1884.[1] In 1852, Simon Bland was elected to the post of town trustee of Highland, and by 1884, was known as one of the "substantial and prominent men of northern Greene County."[2] He was known politically as a dyed in the wool Democrat.[3]

Simon Bland married Rachel Monk[4] on May 18, 1851, and during the twenty years remaining of her life, she bore Simon eight children (fourteenth generation). The 1860 census of Greene County shows Simon and Rachel living in Highland Township, in very close proximity to Robert Henry Bland (thirteenth generation, 1817-1869), and parents of three children: Mourning (enumerated as Muran), born in 1852; Margaret, born in 1854; and William H. Bland, born in 1857. After 1860, five additional children were born, including Ferdinand, Nancy, Granville and Mary, all of whom were deceased by 1884, and David F. Bland.

Rachel Monk died June 20, 1871, and on August 3, 1873 Simon Bland married a widow, Lucinda Danely Owen. There were evidently no children by this second marriage.

Earlier, it was noted that the 1830 census for Greene County, Indiana enumerated four distinct families of Blands, headed by Francis, Jacob, Thomas and William. The families of Francis and Jacob were

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1 Ibid.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

4 Rachel Monk may have been a sister of Martha J. Monk who married James Jacob Bland (thirteenth generation), making Simon and James Jacob Bland brothers-in-law as well as cousins.

discussed on preceding pages. The family of Thomas Bland is something of a mystery. In 1830, his household included an adult male, aged 40-50, and a female aged 30-40. It also included three children, a male aged 0-5, and a male and female aged 10-15. It is assumed that this is the same individual who was on the tax list of Chatham County in 1815. No coherent family for a Thomas Bland resurfaced in subsequent census enumerations.

The family of William Bland is another matter.[1] The 1830 census shows an adult male and female, aged 40-50, in addition to six children, including two females aged 0-5; two males, aged 50-10; one male aged 10-15; and a male aged 15-20. William, Francis, Jacob and Thomas are assumed to be brothers. They lived fairly close together in Greene County, Indiana, and came from North Carolina, suggesting a possible sibling relationship. For purposes of genealogical placement, I will assume that William, like Jacob, Thomas and Francis, is twelfth generation.

William Bland and his wife, enumerated in the 1830 census, were both aged 40-50, suggesting they were born between 1780-1790. In the 1840 census, Elizabeth, William, a William Jr. and Nancy are enumerated in the same household. In 1850, William, aged 63, and Elizabeth, aged 61, both born in North Carolina, were enumerated in Smith Township, Greene County. With the passage of twenty years since 1830, it would be assumed that all their children had grown to adulthood and

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[1] Information about the hypothetical family history of William Bland and his wife is derived from data in the Census for Greene County, Indiana 1830-1860, from Kansas Census Records, and from information supplied by Bertha Dunn, of Delia, Kansas. William purchased 181 acres in Smith Township adjacent to Highland Township in 1831.

moved away, or perhaps died during their childhood. William and Elizabeth then, appear to have been born in North Carolina in 1787 and 1789 respectively. They were still living in 1850, and were enumerated in 1860, living in Smith Township.[1]

It should be noted that in the 1830 census, William's family included two males aged 5-10. One of these may have been William Bland who was born about 1821 in Greene County, and died about 1895 in Beloit, Kansas.[2] William Bland (thirteenth generation) married Catherine Brock, born in 1828, in Greene County, Indiana on November 21, 1847. William and Catherine lived in Greene County for a short time and had a son there, Henry Berlin Bland (fourteenth generation) who was born August 8, 1848.

William and Catherine may have moved to Illinois for a short time, then to Wayne County, Iowa, where they were living in 1860, with a family of eight children (fourteenth generation). The children of William Bland and Catherine Brock were born between 1848-1868, with a hiatus between 1860-1867. Like many couples during this era, their marriage was disrupted by the Civil War. William enlisted in the

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1 The 1860 Census of Greene County enumerates William and Elizabeth as 75 and 60. Information about William Bland (C.1821-1895) was supplied the author by Bertha Dunn, of Delia, Kansas, who descends from this line. Bertha Dunn is cautious about a connection between William Bland (C.1821-1895), her ancestor, and William Bland, born 1787 in North Carolina. The probability of a parent-child connection, however, is very high.

2 The second son of William Bland (C.1787-1860, twelfth generation), aged 5-10 in 1830, may have been James O. D. Bland, who was 25 in 1850. See discussion, pp. 341-342.

Iowa 23rd Regiment, Company D, as an infantryman, for the Union. He was wounded in the hip and honorably discharged. After the war, in 1880, William and his wife are found in Mitchell County, Kansas, Beloit Center Township,[1] living alongside their sons, Henry Berlin, James and Noah.

Henry Berlin Bland was born in Greene County, Indiana, August 8, 1848, and died February 8, 1910. He married Mary E. _____, born about 1851 in Illinois, presumably about 1874. In 1880, Henry Berlin and Mary Bland were living in Beloit, Mitchell County, Kansas, near Henry's parents. In 1900, they lived in Harrison Township, Nemaha County, Kansas, and had a son William, born in Indiana in August 1875. What happened to this family after 1900 is not known.[2]

The second child of William Bland and Catherine Brock, was Mary Bland. Her birth date is uncertain. Mrs. Dunn has found a Latter Day Saints Church record that shows a Mary Bland, born probably March 8, 1851, in Coles, Illinois, to William and Catherine Bland. Nothing more is known of Mary.

The third child of William Bland and Catherine Brock was James Bland. He was born in Illinois about 1854 or 1855. He was living in Beloit, Mitchell County, Kansas, in 1880, married to Marian _____, who was born about 1860, in Illinois. At that time, this couple were parents of two small children: Louise (or Louisa), and Charles S. Bland (fifteenth generation). James may have died about 1893, along

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1 Mrs. Dunn indicates they were in Beloit. Kansas Census, Mitchell County, 1880, 1900, and Bertha Dunn, family record of William Bland and Catherine Brock.

2 Ibid. Kansas Census, Nemaha County, 1900.

with his younger brother, William G. Bland, perhaps accidentally. In that year, Marian Bland filed a petition in Mitchell County Court for legal guardianship of Louise and Charles, as well as Jed W. Bland, minor child of William G. Bland. Presently, nothing more is known of this family.[1]

The fourth child of James Bland and Catherine Brock was Noah Bland, born in Iowa in November 1856. Noah Bland was married at Beloit Mitchell County, Kansas in 1875, to Carrie Bailey, who was born in May 1860 in Washington, Maine. He was a minister, and he and Carrie moved from town to town. Noah and Carrie Bland were in Mitchell County, Kansas in 1880, and in Jackson County, Soldier Township, in 1900. They appear to have had four children (fifteenth generation), including:

(1) Abner Edgar Bland, born December 5, 1879, in Mitchell County, Kansas,[2] and died March 28, 1848 in San Diego, California. Abner married Mary White (1851-), but no children resulted from the marriage. (2) Lillie Myrtle Bland, was born September 20, 1884, in LeCompton, Kansas, and died April 26, 1939. Lillie married Alfred Keller (1884-1944) on March 30, 1909. They were parents of two children (sixteenth generation), including a daughter, Viola Ray Keller, who married Melvin Dunn. (3) Arthur Bland was born December 19, 1885 and died February 3, 1951. Arthur married Louise Ennis (1884-1951) and they had children whose lives extended into the 20th century.

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1 Ibid.

2 Mitchell County was adjacent to Cloud County, Kansas. Cf. discussion of James O. D. Bland, pp. 341-342.

(4) Harry Bland was born January 22, 1894, in Lawrence, Kansas, and died in Beaumont, California. He married twice, to Ada _____ and Amy Lee Housekeeper.[1]

The fifth child of William Bland (thirteenth generation) and Catherine Brock, was John R. Bland, who was born in Iowa in 1858. John R. Bland was living with his parents in 1880 in Iowa. He married Carrie _____, born in Iowa in 1861. By 1885, this couple was living in Mitchell County, Beloit, Kansas, and had a daughter named Minnie, aged 2. Nothing further is known of them.

Eve Ellen Bland was the sixth child of William Bland and Catherine Brock. She was born in Iowa in 1860 and died in Nemaha County, Kansas in 1929. She married Harvey Cooley (1855-1933) about 1877, and had by him seven children.

The seventh child of William Bland and Catherine Brock was William G. Bland, who was born in 1867 in Iowa and died, probably about 1893. He was living with his parents in Beloit, Mitchell County, Kansas in 1880 and 1885. When he died, he had one child, Jed W. Bland, born in 1891.

The eighth child of William Bland and Catherine Brock was Francis Marion Bland. He was born, evidently, in November 1868 in Iowa, and died in Beloit, Kansas, January 2, 1948. Francis married Mary K. _____,[2] born in Tennessee July 1871, presumably about 1889. By 1900, Marion and Mary Bland had one child, a daughter Rea, born in Kansas in 1890.

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1 Ibid. Kansas Census, Jackson County, 1900.

2 A boarder in Francis Marion's home enumerated in the 1900 census was Jessie Knight, of Tennessee, aged 59, who may have been a relative of Mary K.

The 1850 and 1860 censuses record a number of Greene County, Indiana, Bland families that probably were descended from either Francis Thomas or William Bland. These include:

Joseph Bland, born in Indiana in 1819 (both Thomas and William Bland had male children not accounted for, aged 10-15 in 1850). In 1860, Joseph was married to Sarah Ann, born in Indiana in 1822, and they had six children, including Francis M. Bland (1842-); James T. Bland (1846-); William T. Bland (1847-); Worthington Bland (1850-); Elizabeth J. Bland (1855-); and Joseph A. Bland (1859-). Of these children, James may have been living in Clay County, Kansas by 1880, married to Roxie, born in Ohio in 1849, and father of three children: William, age 10; Jesse, a daughter, age 2; and Annie, age six months.[1] In 1880, William T. Bland (1847-) was living in Rooks County, Kansas, Walton Township, and was married to Amelia _____, born in Indiana. They had a child Orin, aged 2, and a child, Otto Bland, aged 4. By 1900, Otto Bland was living in Rice County, Kansas, married to Maggie _____ and father of three children: Alva, born December 1894; Abby, born February 1897; and James E. Bland, born November 1899. By 1900, it appears that William T. Bland's wife Amelia had died, and he was living with his brother Worthington in Mitchell County, Beloit Township, in Kansas. By that time, William T. Bland had a child, Frank E. Bland, who was born May 1887 in Kansas.[2]

The 1850 census shows Jacob Bland, aged 34, living in Richland Township, Greene County, with a family that included a wife, Elvira,

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1 Indiana Census, 1860, Greene County; Kansas Census, 1880, Clay County.

2 Kansas Census, 1880, Rooks County; Rice County; Mitchell County, 1900.

born in Indiana in 1819. Jacob and Elvira had married on December 22, 1836. They had six children, including: Thornton, aged 12; Mary, aged 10; Sarah, aged 8; Samuel, aged 6; Bersheba, aged 4;[1] and Rebecca, aged 1. Jacob and his family were no longer living in Greene County in 1860. I have been able to find nothing about Jacob or his two sons after 1850.

James O. D. Bland, born in 1824 (William had two sons, aged 5-10, in 1830; one was presumed to be William (C.1821-1895) who married Catherine Brock) was living in Highland Township in 1860. His place of birth was Indiana.[2] At that time, James was married to Mary _____ from North Carolina, aged 21. James served during the Civil War in the 115th Indiana Infantry, Company A, formed in Greene County. James and Mary in 1860 had a family of six children, all born in Indiana, including: John, aged 13; Martha J. Bland, aged 10; William F. Bland, aged 8; Susan C. Bland, aged 6; Margaret E. Bland, aged 3. What became of James O. D. Bland's children is unknown. By 1880, James and his wife Mary were living in Cloud County, Kansas, Buffalo Township,[3] and by

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1 As noted before, this name, variants of Bathsheba, appears repeatedly from late 18th century, in the descendants of James Bland (ninth generation). A Bashaba Bland married Anthony Milan September 9, 1841, in Greene County, and there was a William Milan, living in the home of Jacob and Elvira Bland in 1850, aged eight months, suggesting that his parents were dead.

2 If James O. D. Bland was the son of William Bland, it would indicate that William was in Indiana by 1824, but he didn't buy land until 1831.

3 Cf. p. 338 . Cloud County was adjacent to Mitchell County, Kansas.

1900, a son, Malcolm O. Bland, was enumerated, born July 1882. He must have been an unexpected surprise, for there is no evidence of any intervening children, and Mary would have been 43 when he was born.[1]

Adam, or possibly Aaron Bland, born in 1814 in North Carolina, was living in Richland Township in 1860. He married Lavina Bryant in Kentucky, born in 1814, on December 23, 1834. They had a son, Leroy Bland, born in 1838. Adam Bland's parentage is unknown, although again, both William and Thomas Bland (assumed twelfth generation) had sons aged 10-15 in the 1830 census.

The Chatham County, North Carolina/Greene County, Indiana connection for the Bland family was indeed extensive, but the North Carolina migrants did not complete this Greene County picture. As is shown in Chapter X, probable descendants of John Bland (eighth generation) also moved from Virginia to Kentucky, and then to Greene County, where they mingled with these North Carolina descendants. That comixture is a subject for Chapter X. Here, the reader comes to the end of the discussion of the family of James Bland (C.1707-1774, ninth generation) of New Hanover County, North Carolina, and turns to the discussion of James' younger half-brother, Moses Bland, the eldest son of William Bland (eighth generation) and his second wife, Catherine Key.

Moses Bland of Randolph County, North Carolina, (Ninth Generation)

The life of Moses Bland (ninth generation) spanned the 18th century. Moses was the half-brother of James Bland, of New Hanover

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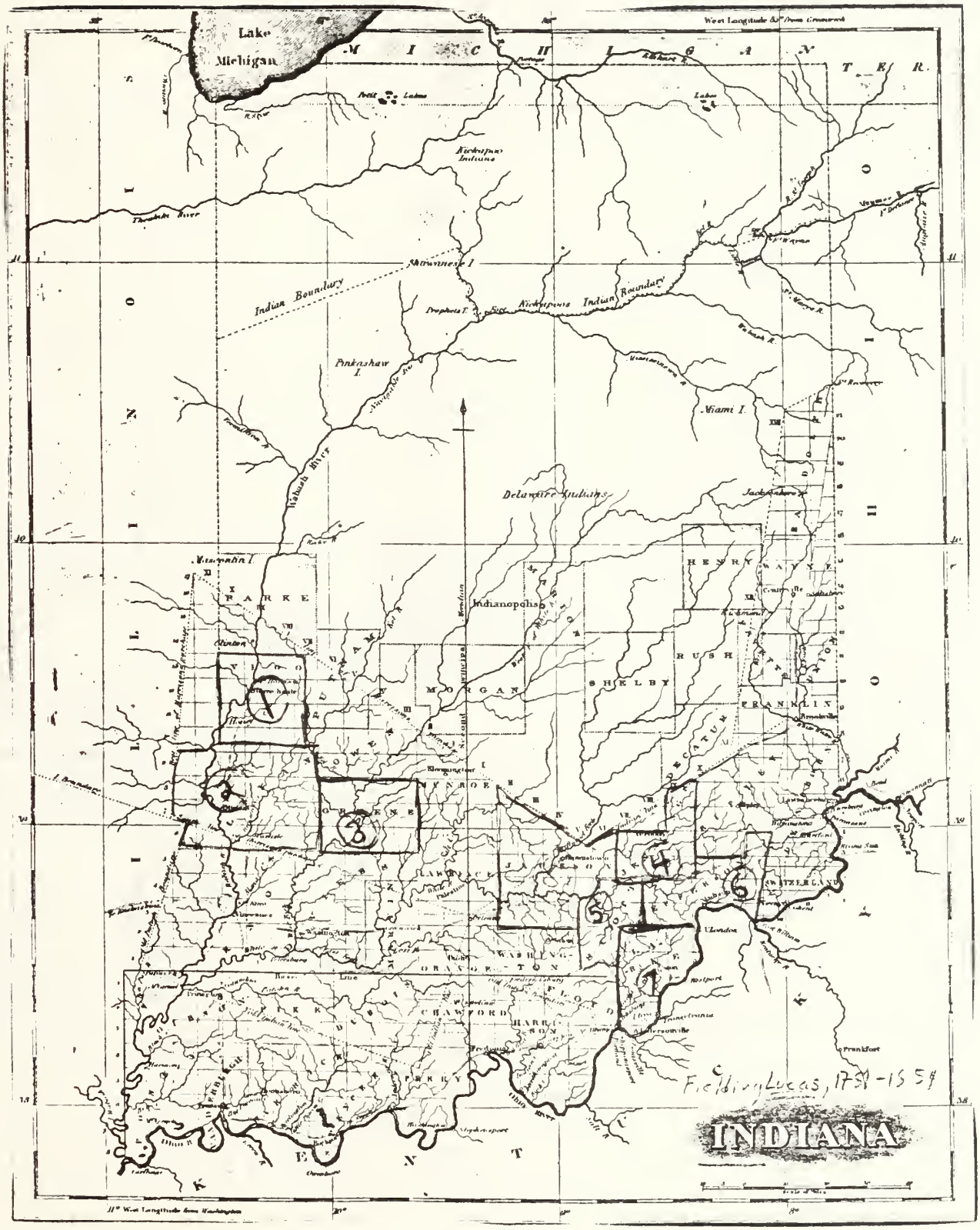
1 Kansas Census, 1900, Cloud County.

MAP XII

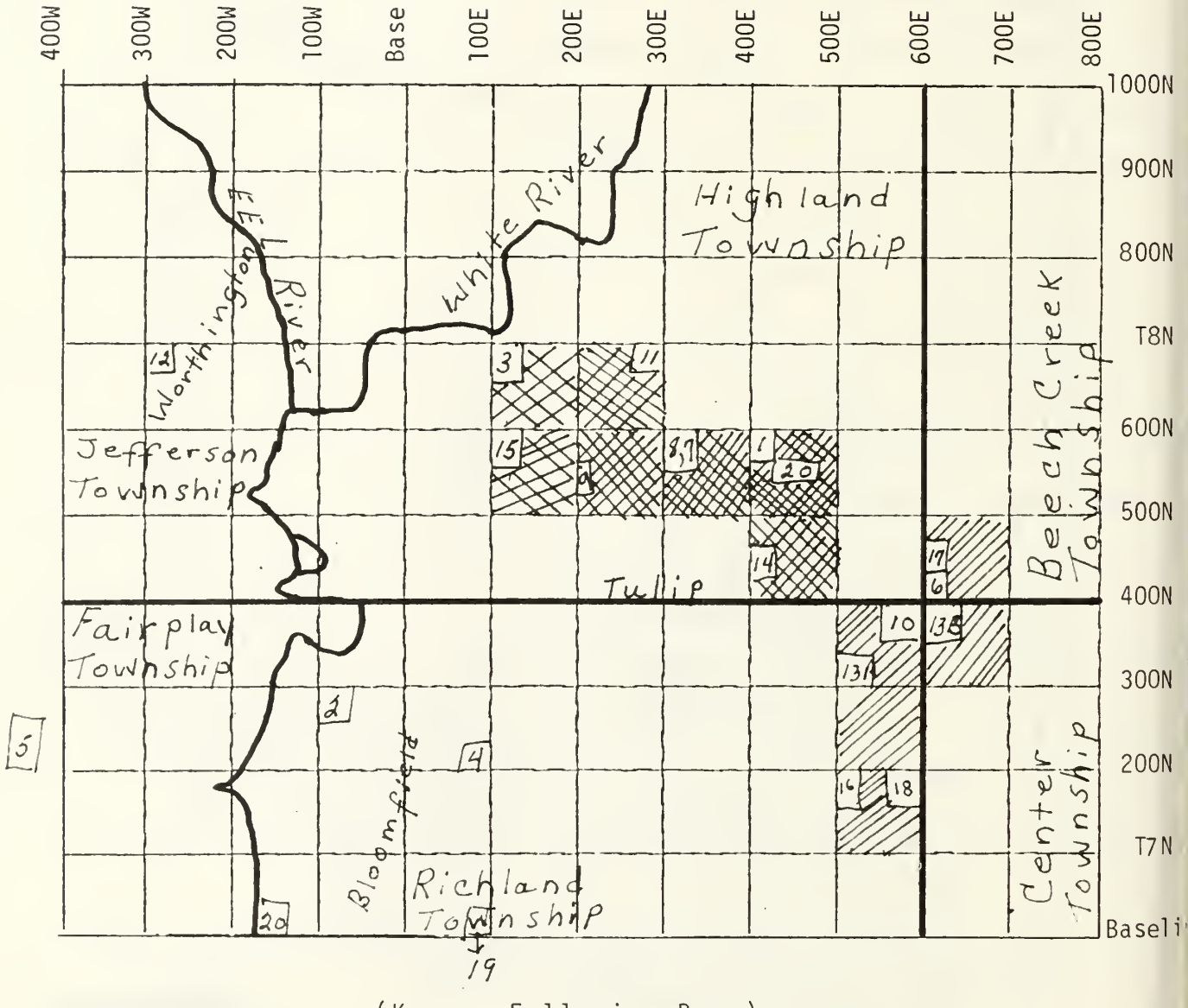
INDIANA ABOUT 1823



Highlighted Counties: (1) Vigo; (2) Sullivan; (3)Greene; (4) Jennings
(5) Scott; (6) Jefferson;(7) Clarke; (8) Jackson.

MAP XIII

Bland Settlements in Highland, Fairplay, Richland, Jefferson, Beech Creek, and Center Townships, Greene County, Indiana from 1827-1870.



(Key on Following Page)

Each section is 1 mile square.

Settlement by Chatham County, North Carolina family of Jacob Bland (C.1779-1839).

Settlement of Nelson County, Kentucky family of Osborne Bland Jr. (C.1774-1848).

Key to Land Ownership in Greene County, Indiana: Highland, Fairplay, Richland, Jefferson, Beech Creek, and Center Townships

1. Francis Bland: 70 acres, Highland, 1827.
2. Thomas Bland: 80 acres, Richland, 1829.
3. William Bland: 181 acres, Highland, 1831.
4. Jacob Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland, 1836.
5. William Bland: 40 acres, Fairplay Township, off map between 300N-200N , 1837.
6. William Bland: 40 acres, Beech Creek Township, 1838.
7. Jacob Bland: Died, Highland in 1839, 1.75 miles north of Tulip.
8. Robert H. Bland and James Jacob Bland: Inherited land, Highland, from Jacob Bland, 1840.
9. James Jacob Bland: Uncertain acreage, Highland, 1844.
10. Warren Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland, 1852.
11. James O. D. Bland: Uncertain acreage, Highland, 1863.
12. Thomas Bland: Uncertain acreage, Jefferson Township, 1855.
13. Jesse Bland: (A) Uncertain acreage, Richland, 1858; (B) uncertain acreage, Center 1861.
14. James Bland Jr.: Uncertain acreage, Highland, 1860.
15. James O. D. Bland: Uncertain acreage, Highland, 1863.
16. John Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland, 1868.
17. Austin Bland: Uncertain acreage, Beech Creek Township, 1869.
18. Austin Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland, 1870.
19. Aaron Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland, date uncertain.
20. James Jacob Bland: Uncertain acreage, Richland on White River near Fairplay, date uncertain.

TABLE XXII

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND OF DUPLIN AND CHATHAM COUNTIES, NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(10) William Bland (C. 1726-1775) = _____

(11) James Bland (C. 1749/1754-) = _____

(12-1)	(12-2)*	(12-3)**	(12-4)
Jacob Bland (C. 1779-1839), married Nancy Richardson about 1801.	William Bland (1787-1860), married Elizabeth _____ (1789-).	Francis Bland (1790/1800-1833), married Elizabeth Langley (1800/1810-1861).	Thomas Bland (1780-1790/), married _____. In 1830, Thomas' household included the following children: 1 male, aged 0-5. 1 male, aged 10-15. 1 female, aged 10-15.
(13-1) Nancy Richardson Bland (1802-1876), married Richard Pope.	(13-1) William Bland* (1821-C. 1895) married Catherine Brock.	(13-1) Simon Bland (1823-C. 1883), married Rachel Monk.	
(13-2) Permelia Bland (1805-1883).	(13-2) James O. D. Bland* (1824-) married Mary _____.		
(13-3) Mary Bland (1807-)	(13-3) Jacob Bland* (1816-) married Elvira Hartley.		
(13-4) Zina Bland (1809-)			
(13-5) Rebecca Bland (1813-1865), married Mark Clark James.			
(13-6) Jacob Bland (1815-1862), married Martha Monk.			
(13-7) Robert Henry Bland (1817-1869), married Chloe Hodges.			
(13-8) Sarah Bland			

* In 1830, Greene County, Indiana, William Bland's family was enumerated with one male and one female, aged 40-50; two females, aged 0-5; two males, aged 5-10; one male, 10-15; and one male, 15-20. There is a possibility, though not a certainty, that William, James O.D., and Jacob Bland are brothers.

** Francis Bland and Elizabeth Langley had a family of five daughters and three sons. Information is available ----- Assumed.

TABLE XXIII

THE FAMILY OF MOSES BLAND OF VIRGINIA AND RANDOLPH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FIVE GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____.

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____.
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717.

(9) Moses Bland (C. 1718-1799) = Jane Wiggonton, January 14, 1750.

(10-1)

William Bland (C. 1752-died after 1801)

(11-1) James Bland (1773-1832), married Jane Johnston.

(11-2) Moses Bland (1774/1775-C. 1848), married (1) Peggy Bland; and (2) Nancy Boaz.

(11-3) Thomas Bland* (1775/1779-living in 1820).

(11-4) John Bland*

(11-5) Abel Bland (C. 1788-living in 1820).

(10-2)

Benjamin Bland (born prior to 1769-still living in 1820)

(10-)

Daughters:

Sarah (Sally) Bland
Fanny Bland
Winnie Bland
Catherine (Caty) Bland
Margaret (Peggy) Bland
Mary Bland

* Thomas and John Bland's enumeration as sons of William Bland is hypothetical. See discussion on pp. 357-359.

County, North Carolina. He was the eldest son of William Bland (eighth generation) by his wife, Catherine Key, and must have been born in 1718. I come to this conclusion because Moses was named co-executor with James Bland (ninth generation) of their father's estate. William Bland married Catherine Key on February 6, 1716/1717. If Catherine conceived soon after their marriage, the child would have been born in 1718. There is evidence on record to suggest that Thomas Bland, another son of William Bland and Catherine Key, was born no later than 1719. Yet Moses, and not Thomas, was his father's co-executor. Thus, the estimate for Moses' birth in 1718. Moses' will was made December 10, 1799, and probated in May 1800, but the language of the will's preamble indicates that Moses died soon after making his will. Thus, Moses lived to a remarkably old age of eighty-one (1718-1799).[1]

Following his father's death, Moses took an active part in the French-Creel-Reno-Bland Iron Works. His occupation is unknown, but traces of him are found in 1753, 1757, 1760, and 1771 in Prince William and Fairfax County.[2] Moses and his wife then appeared on the tax lists of Randolph County, North Carolina, in 1779, when the county was formed from Guilford. Moses appeared on the record in Randolph County several

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1 The name of Moses in the Bland family is obscure. A Moses Bland died in Pennsylvania in 1758, leaving a will that left a legacy to executors James and Margaret Reid. Dawson Notes, citing Lyingstedt, Vol. II, p. 37. The name would seem to indicate that this man, born no later than 1737, was related to the Stafford County family, though whose son he might be, and how he came to be in Pennsylvania, remains a mystery. The possibility of a family of Blands being in Pennsylvania during this time will be discussed presently. Cf. pp. 357-362.

2 Dawson Notes, citing Fairfax County Order Book, 1757, p. 663; The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 21, pp. 65-66; and Prince William Deed Book X, 1771, p. 400.

times in the following twenty years,[1] and in 1790 was enumerated in the Hillsborough District of the county with his wife. Why Moses moved to North Carolina is uncertain.

Moses married Jane Wiggonton, of Stafford County, Overwharton Parish, on January 14, 1750/1751.[2] In his will, Moses mentioned eight children, including six daughters and two sons (tenth generation). The daughters were Sally, Fanny, Winnie, Caty,[3] Peggy and Mary. To my knowledge, nothing further is known of them. The two sons were named William and Benjamin.

The reader should proceed with the caution that of the three ascertained sons of William Bland (eighth generation), the line that descends through Moses Bland is the least well developed, and as is the case in discussing many lines, there are some outright contradictions that have yet to be resolved. With that in mind, I turn to the tenth generation sons of Moses Bland.[4]

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1 Letter, Albert Hunter to William Graham Bland, April 21, 1981, citing Randolph County Deed Books #3, September 24, 1785, p. 318; Book 5, November 28, 1792, p. 111; and Book 5, April 24, 1794, p. 128.

2 George Harrison King, Registers of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County, Virginia (1964). p. 9.

3 Last Will and Testament of Moses Bland, December 10, 1799. Caty must have been a derivation of Kate, Catherine, Catherine Key.

4 In preparing this section, I have profited by the opportunity of talking briefly with Mr. Max Kessinger, of Wichita, Kansas, and with Robert Wheeler, of Lebanon, Oregon. I have made use of a document authored by Berniece Mumford, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, which traces a view of the line of descent from Moses Bland (eleventh generation); The Bland Family Line, by Gladys Bland Foster, which I received from several sources; Francis Marion Bland's, "The Bland Reunion-1900;" sections of a book on the McAmmon-Bland family and related lines, prepared by Elva Reitz, of Sun City, Arizona' Obituary of Jane Johnston Bland, Dupont, Indiana, July 9, 1866. I have also profited by letters from Berniece Mumford, November 17, 1981; Elva Reitz, November 21, 1981; and Luella Bland, undated (November 1981), as well as from Robert Wheeler, November 20, 1981.

Benjamin Bland (Tenth Generation)

Benjamin Bland (tenth generation) was the younger of the two known sons of Moses Bland. He was enumerated in the 1790 census in Hillsborough District, Randolph County, North Carolina, living alone, but over sixteen. In 1801, his brother William deeded him 40 acres on Fork Creek in Randolph County.

By 1800, Benjamin had started a family. His household shows an adult male and female, both aged 26-45, with a male and female under 10. Benjamin then disappeared from view until 1820, when he appeared in Jackson County, Indiana. By then, his wife had died and his household was composed of one male under 10, and two females aged 16-26 and 10-16. This would indicate that the male child in the 1800 census was now gone from the household. How Benjamin Bland got from Randolph County, North Carolina, to Jackson County, Indiana is not known, but it is apparent that he traveled there with some nephews and other Blands not readily identifiable, and who lived for a time in Nelson County, Kentucky. The names of Benjamin's children remain unknown.

William Bland (Tenth Generation)

The eldest son of Moses Bland and Jane Wiggonton was William Bland, (tenth generation). When he was born is uncertain, but in the 1800 census he was enumerated as over 45, leaving a bare range of 1752-1755 for his year of birth. For working purposes, I will use the date of 1752. He was still living in 1800-1801 when he made land transactions in the Fork Creek area with William and John Needham, and his brother Benjamin.

The name of William's wife and the exact composition of his family is not certain. In 1790, he was enumerated in the Hillsborough District of Randolph County, North Carolina, with a family that included himself, his wife, two males over 16, two males under 16, and four females. By 1800, the family included William, then over 45, one female aged 26-45 (William's wife), one male and one female, aged 10-16, one female and two males under 10.

The names of William's daughters are not known, but enough is known of his sons to form an opinion about the composition of his family in 1790 and 1800. There were four sons enumerated in 1790, two over 16, and two under 16. The elder sons were James Bland, born in 1773, and Moses Bland, born about 1774 or 1775. Of the two sons who were under 16 in 1790, one would have been Abel, documented by Berniece Mumford as being born in 1788. Possibly the other was Thomas Bland. Nothing is known of Thomas, and I hasten to add that I am not certain he was William's son. There is a Thomas Bland who witnessed Moses Bland's will of 1799, and some of this family migrated to Jackson County, Indiana, and were enumerated there in 1820. Living alongside them was a family headed by Thomas Bland, aged 26-45. If this Thomas had been born, say, in 1775-1779, he could have been under 16 in 1790, have witnessed his grandfather's will in 1799, and appeared in Jackson County, Indiana in 1820, aged 41-45.[1] By 1800, the older sons, James and Moses, had moved away, leaving Abel and the unknown son (possibly Thomas) still in the household. By 1800 also, there were two sons and a daughter that were listed as under 10, so were not enumerated in the 1790 census.

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[1] The missing son also may have been John Bland, who appeared in Jeri[illegible] County, Indiana; father of Osborne and Meredith Bland. Cf. pp. 357 ff.

Abel Bland (Eleventh Generation)

Very little is known of Abel Bland. He was said to have been the son of William Bland (tenth generation) born in 1788. Abel Bland first appeared as an adult in the 1820 census for Jackson County, Indiana, where he was enumerated as aged 26-45 (actually 32), with a son, aged 10-16, and two sons under ten. Also in his household was a female, aged 26-45, and three females under age 10. What happened to Abel Bland is not certain, but one of his sons, James Bland (twelfth generation) born in 1822, enlisted in the Arkansas Volunteer Militia for service in the Mexican War on July 1, 1846.[1]

Moses Bland (Eleventh Generation)

Moses Bland was born probably about 1775,[2] in Randolph County, North Carolina. In the late 1790's, Moses left home, possibly with his older brother James, and by 1800 had reached Nelson County, Kentucky. There he met and married Peggy Bland, a daughter of Samuel Bland, on November 24, 1800.[3]

This first marriage of Moses' was to last about six years, and during that time there was born one daughter, Elizabeth Bland (1804-1846, twelfth generation) who later married Ambrose Knott

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1 Document provided by Berniece Mumford, who states that this James Bland was an ancestor of one Vera Bland. "Abell Bland" married Ann James in Henry County, Kentucky, October 27, 1808.

2 An undated obituary for Moses Bland indicates he was 68 when he died. The range of Moses' birthdates would be 1775-1781.

3 Mumford; citing Mary H. Stancliff, Nelson County, Kentucky, Marriage Bonds: 1785-1832, Vol. 1. Cf. p. 348, note 2. Samuel Bland, of Nelson County, Kentucky, will be discussed in Chapter X, pp. 455 ff.

in Nelson County, Kentucky, December 1, 1828.[1] Peggy Bland died about 1805-1806, and subsequently, Moses Bland married Nancy Boaz, of Woodford County, Kentucky, on March 21, 1807.

By 1810, Moses Bland and Nancy Boaz were in Jefferson County, Kentucky. The census of that year showed Moses, aged 26-45, with a female (Nancy Boaz) aged 26-45, a daughter, Elizabeth, aged 10-16, and two females under 10.

By 1820, Moses Bland and Nancy Boaz were in Jackson County, Indiana, where they were enumerated with a family including one male over 45 (Moses would have been about 46 in 1820). No adult female is enumerated, suggesting that Nancy Boaz died sometime between 1810-1820. There are enumerated with Moses, three males, all under age 10, as well as two females aged 10-16, and two females under 10.

Here opinions diverge about what happened to Moses. Max Kessinger, of Wichita, Kansas, believes that Moses moved to Sullivan County, Indiana, and died there after 1850, while Nancy Boaz died between 1840 and 1850. Berniece Mumford, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, however, believes that Moses moved to Arkansas between 1820-1828. Interestingly, there is a Moses Bland by 1830 in Pulaski County, Arkansas, as well as one in Sullivan County, Indiana. One descends from Moses Bland (ninth generation) through his son William. The other descends from an unknown source. Both Mr. Kessinger and Mrs. Mumford believe that their Moses descends from the Randolph County, North Carolina family.

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[1] Ambrose Knott and Elizabeth Bland were found in Gill Township, Sullivan County, Indiana in 1850. Samuel Bland stood bond for Elizabeth vouching that she was over 21. He called Elizabeth his niece and stated that her father, Moses, was in Indiana at the time. Samuel was Moses' brother-in-law. Cf. pp. 455 ff.

The Kessinger Line

The Moses Bland identified in the Jackson County, Indiana Census for 1820 most closely resembles the family suggested by Mr. Max Kessinger. Further, by 1830, the Moses Bland-Nancy Boaz family was in Jennings County, Indiana (they moved there about 1823), and was enumerated as one male under ten; two males 15-20; one female 10-15; and one female 15-20. Additionally, there was a female 20-30, and a male 40-50 (Moses was about 58 in 1830).

According to Mr. Kessinger, Moses Bland and Nancy Boaz had a family (twelfth generation) that included two daughters and three sons. The daughters were Elizabeth, born C.1814, and Lucretia, born C.1817, who married Wallace Davis. The sons, as enumerated in the 1830 census, were:[1]

Richard Anderson Bland, born in Nelson County, Kentucky, January 6, 1815, and died August 3, 1904, in Sullivan County, Indiana. Richard was a cabinet maker and farmer.[2] Richard married first, in 1835, Eusebia Mason, by whom he had nine children. Of these children (thirteenth generation), five were dead by 1884, including James M., Marion, Sarah M. Richard A. and Justus D. Bland. Still living in 1884 were Nancy, William H. (1840-), Thomas F., and Samantha Bland. Richard married Millie A. Allen December 19, 1877, but had no children by her.

Minor Bland[3] was born May 7, 1818, and died March 26, 1879. He married twice and between his wives, was a father of seven children, of whom three died in infancy.

Mr. Kessinger's ancestor was William Bland, born 1813-1815 and died 1852. William married in Jennings County, Indiana, on April 9, 1831,

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1 Max Kessinger to Charles Bland, February 5, 1982. Moses was shown in the 1850 Census for Sullivan County, aged 78, which conforms approximately to estimates for Moses' birth.

2 Baber, p. 717.

3 Cf. p. 397, note 1.

Mary Pennock (C.1810-1877), from New York. William and Mary had a family of eight children, including Margaret (C.1832-); Almira (C.1837-), Mary Ann (C.1839-), Elizabeth (C.1841-), Mariah (June 22, 1843 to April 23, 1892) who married Elisha Hadden, January 18 1861, and an unnamed daughter. A son, Moses Bland (May 29, 1848-May 20, 1925) died in California and is buried at Linton, Indiana. Moses married three times and had four children (fourteenth generation) including Samuel Bland (1873-); Josephus (1875-1901); Moses (1881-1881), and Mariah Louise (1884-1906).

William A. Bland, eldest son of William Bland and Mary Pennock, was born May 12, 1845 and died January 14, 1883. He married on May 3, 1866, Leanah Burnett (July 23, 1850-February 28, 1870),[1] and by her had two children (fourteenth generation) including Mary Bland (1867-1870) and Levi Edward Bland, born at Fredonia, Kansas January 15, 1869 and died in Mulvane, Kansas, June 22, 1955. Levi Edward Bland married on March 26, 1891, Ida M. Foudray (1873-1960), and by her had four children including William Cleotus Bland (1892-1895), Glenn E. Bland (1898-1917), Audrey Mae Bland, still living, and Esther Lee Bland (1894-1962) who married Cresse Ernest Kessinger.[2]

The Mumford Line

According to Berniece Mumford, Moses Bland (eleventh generation) appeared in Pulaski County, Arkansas, sometime between 1820-1828.[3]

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1 William A. Bland remarried to Sarah Hildebrand, of Dade County, Missouri, July 28, 1873, and they had a son, Albert C. Bland (1878-1918) who died in Arkansas, was married and had children.

2 Cresse Ernest Kessinger and Esther Lee Bland were parents of Max Kessinger.

3 Cf. p. 348, note 1.

In 1830, Moses appeared in the census for Pulaski County as aged 40-50, with a wife aged 40-50, one male aged 5-10 (a son named Moses, born in 1823) and five daughters, including one aged 16-20, two aged 10-15, one 5-10, and one under five. Of these daughters, three were married in 1836-1837: Charlotte Bland to Leason Wells in 1836; Nancy Bland to Andrew Brozil in 1837; and Polly Bland to Andrew McAllister in 1837. By 1840, in Pulaski County, Moses was enumerated aged 50-60, and Nancy Boaz, aged 40-50, with a male 15-20 (Moses, twelfth generation) and a female, aged 10-15.

The Pulaski County, Arkansas records for 1848 and 1849 show Moses Bland in possession of one slave, valued at $600, and livestock valued at $125. In a bill of sale dated December 12, 1848, Moses sold the slave to his son Moses for $1.00. Moses must have died soon after. Mrs. Mumford indicates that Moses was a Baptist minister, who helped form the Spring Creek Baptist Church, later called the First Baptist Church in Benton, Arkansas. Following is an undated obituary from the Arkansas Gazette:

DEATH OF MOSES BLAND

> Moses Bland, an old and respected citizen of Owen Township, this county, died on Sunday at his home, at the advanced age of 68 years. He had lived in Pulaski County for the last fifty years. The past twenty-two years he had lived...in Owen township...He had many friends in the county who will greatly regret to hear of his death. He had been a consistent member of the church for many years and his last request to his children was that they so live as to meet him in heaven.[1]

The 1830 and 1840 census for Arkansas shows Moses Bland (eleventh generation) had one son only, Moses Bland (twelfth generation). He was born January 23, 1823. The date of his death is unknown.

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[1] Obituary of Moses Bland, supplied by Berniece Mumford.

On July 28, 1842, Moses married Mary Ann Bland, and by her had two daughters (thirteenth generation), including Sarah A. Bland, born in 1844, and Nancy, born 1845-1846. Soon after the birth of Nancy, Mary Ann Bland died, and Moses Bland went off to fight in the Mexican-American War, doing military service in the Arkansas Mounted Regiment of Volunteers from June 15, 1846 to June 20, 1847. After mustering out of his military unit, Moses returned to Arkansas and married Rebecca Vandergrift. By her, Moses fathered three children (thirteenth generation), including Pauline, born 1849; James, whose birthdate is unknown; and Thomas C. Bland, who was born March 18, 1854 and died March 4, 1932. Thomas married, on November 23, 1873, to Selita Goodwin who was born April 3, 1850. Among other children born in this marriage was James Bland (fourteenth generation) who was born November 12, 1889 and died May 17, 1969. James Bland married January 31, 1909, but the name of his wife is not available to me.[1]

James Bland (Eleventh Generation)

The eldest son of William Bland (tenth generation) of Randolph County, North Carolina, was James Bland. James died in Lancaster Township, Jefferson County, Indiana, on May 4, 1832, with a notation on his tombstone that he was "age 58 years, 11 months and 13 days." If my math is correct, James would have been born May 21, 1773. Circumstantial evidence of his parentage indicates a father-son relationship

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[1] Information about Moses Bland (eleventh and twelfth generation) and their descendants is included in an untitled paper supplied by Berniece Mumford, of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and a one-page lineage called "Bland Family Line for James T. Bland," by Gladys Bland Foster. The latter documents indicate that James Bland had a son, Floyd Bland, born April 27, 1910, who in turn had a son, James T. Bland, born November 5, 1932.

between William and James. James is not mentioned in the will of Moses Bland in 1799, but by that time had left Randolph County. If he was born in Randolph County,[1] he almost certainly would have had to be the son of either Moses Bland (ninth generation) or William Bland (tenth generation). In the 1790 census Moses Bland's household included one male and one female (Moses and his wife, Jane), while William Bland's younger brother, Benjamin, was living alone. William, on the other hand, had three males over 16 living in his household in 1790. These would include James.

A final note is that there was interaction between the family of Moses and William Bland, and the Johnston and Needham families in Randolph County. There were, for example, two land transactions in Randolph County, North Carolina, in 1800 and 1801 between William Bland, and William and John Needham.[2]

These circumstances convince me that James Bland was the son of William Bland of Randolph County, North Carolina (tenth generation). As indicated above, his dates were 1773-1832. James Bland married on September 8, 1796, Jane Johnston, of Randolph County, North Carolina. In 1798, James and Jane moved to Ballard County, Kentucky, and in 1799, to Clark County, Indiana Territory. According to Jane Johnston's obituary, she was part of a move to organize a Methodist Episcopal Church in the Kentucky wilderness. The family ived in Clark County

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1 There is some disagreement about this. One school of thought is that he was born in York County, England, to William Bland and Catherine Morrill, of Harewood Parish. This to me is very problematical, absent any proof or even indirect evidence of his migration.

2 Albert Hunter to William Graham Bland, April 21, 1981, citing Randolph County Deed Book 8, pp. 143, February 15, 1800, and 311, September 4, 1801.

without interruption from 1799-1812, but following an Indian massacre of whites at Pigeon Roost in September 1812, James removed his family, along with others, to Kentucky, where Jane and the children remained until February 1814, when James moved them to Big Creek, in now Lancaster Township in Jefferson County, Indiana Territory.

James was commissioned an officer in the Clark County Militia, hence he came to be known as Captain Bland.

The home of James Bland and Jane Johnston became a regular house of worship for their neighbors, and Jane was instrumental in helping form the Methodist Episcopal Church in Jefferson County, as she had been in Kentucky. Jane was born December 12, 1780, and died March 2, 1866. She was eulogized following her death:

> Mother Bland...was a woman of superior mind and unwavering purpose, of active energy, unwavering zeal, of patient endurance; a kind friend, a safe counselor, in short a true and enlightened Christian woman. Many persons were relieved of their suffering by her medical skill...[1]

By the account of this writer, James Bland and Jane Johnston had eleven children and 56 grandchildren at the time of her death.

The children of James Bland and Jane Johnston were (twelfth generation): Polly Bland, who was born in 1797, and married William Needham. There is an interesting connection between their daughter, Martha, and a Moses Bland who does not fit the Randolph County family, which will be discussed presently.[2] William Needham and Polly Bland were both buried in Ripley, Indiana.

The second child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was Jane Bland, who was born April 14, 1799 at Clark's Grant, Indiana, and died

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[1] Obituary of Jane Johnston Bland, Dupont, Indiana, July 9, 1866, supplied the author by Elva Reitz, of Sun City, Arizona.

[2] Cf. pp. 361-364.

October 2, 1885 at Fall Creek, Hamilton County, Indiana. She married Samuel Whelchel in 1813. He died March 8, 1882, and is buried in Hamilton County with his wife. Their complete line of descendants is unknown to this writer, but one of their children (thirteenth generation) was Thomas Whelchel, whose daughter Alta Whelcehl (fourteenth generation) married _____ Wynn and they were parents of Berniece Wynn, who married Charles Mumford.[1]

The third child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was Rachel Bland (twelfth generation), who was born in 1802, and died in Jefferson County, Indiana. She married Robert Chapman.

The fourth child was Thomas Bland, who was born in 1804 or 1805, and died in Bigger Township, Jennings County, Indiana, in 1892. Thomas was a circuit rider and Methodist minister. He married Martha (Patsy) Bland who was born in 1803 in North Carolina, and died in Bigger Township in 1891. Thomas and Martha were married about 1825. They had a family of eight children (thirteenth generation), including:[2]

1. Francis Asberry Bland, who was born about 1827 and died in Jennings County, Indiana, September 22, 1907. He married Frances Anna Hall (1829-1860) in Jennings County on April 4, 1847. Their children were (fourteenth generation): John Hall Bland (March 25, 1848-November 14, 1906) who married Mary Catherine Hansell on January 19, 1871. They lived in Jennings County, and had six children. Thomas Eubank Bland (May 5, 1850-October 7, 1924). He married Elizabeth Jenny Adams on October 29, 1877. Benjamin Bland (February 4, 1853-October 12, 1946), never married.

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1 Berniece Mumford to Charles Bland, November 17, 1981.

2 Information about the family of Thomas and Martha Bland is found in Family Group sheets, supplied the author by Jane Mitby, of Denver, Colorado.

Martha Ellen Bland (August 23, 1855-March 2, 1929), did not marry. Martin Chapman Bland (February 14, 1858-February 8, 1933), married on August 2, 1882, Jane C. Hansell. Frances Anna Hall died sometime before 1865, when Francis Asberry Bland remarried to Jane C. _____. Their children were Elizabeth (June 13, 1865-October 30, 1872), and Blanche, born and died in 1876.

2. Benjamin J. Bland, born about 1829, and died before 1870. He married a widow, Permelia Violet Kail, sometime before 1865, and they had two children (fourteenth generation): Charles, born in 1866, and Everett, born in 1869.

3. James Calvin Bland, born about 1831, and died in 1896. He married on March 29, 1855, Sarah M. Burge. They lived in Jennings County. Their children (fourteenth generation) included: Edgar Burge Bland, born in 1856. James Owner Bland (1858-1927), who married first, Emma Petrie, and second, Clara Idell Shepard. Sarah M. Bland, born in 1867. Charles Bland, born in 1864. Ada Bland, born 1866. Josephine Bland, born 1868. Thomas Bland, born 1870, died before 1880. Louisa Bland, born in 1872. Lucy Bland, born in 1875. Pearl (1879-1886).

4. William J. Bland was born about 1832 in Jennings County.

5. Thomas J. Bland was born about 1833 in Jennings County, and died after 1900 in Hendricks, Shelby County, Indiana. He married about 1862, Melissa Cole, and by her had the following (fourteenth generation) children: Leonard, born 1863; Anna, 1867; John, 1871; James, 1874; Orlando, 1877; and Sarah, 1879.

6. Elizabeth Bland was born in 1836 and died in 1870. She did not marry.

7. John O. (or A.) Bland, was born in 1838, and died after 1890, when he married Josephine Warren Park, his "last" wife,[1] who was the mother of a daughter, Mary E. (1892-1959).

8. Marion E. Bland was born in 1841. Nothing further is known about him.

Thomas Bland, fourth son of James Bland and Jane Johnston, was living in Bigger Township in 1850, numbered by the census taker as family 1360. His son, Francis Asberry, was numbered 1361. Numbers 1363 and 1364 were two brothers, Osborne and Meredith Bland. Osborne showed a birthplace of Kentucky, and Meredith indicated Virginia as his birthplace. Both listed John Bland and Mary Bland, from North Carolina, as their parents. John Bland could be a son of William or Benjamin Bland (tenth generation).

Osborne Bland was born in 1812, and died February 20, 1882, in Jennings County, Indiana. He married Mary Ann Clarkson, February 1836, and they were married by Thomas Bland (twelfth generation). Mary Ann Clarkson was born in Kentucky in 1814, and died also in 1882. The children of Osborne Bland and Mary Ann Clarkson were:

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[1] Mrs. Mitby indicated that John had many wives, which also suggests he had many children who are not enumerated here.

Nancy Jane Bland, born 1837; Thomas Bland, born 1839; Noah Anthony Bland, born 1843 in Jennings County, and died in 1925. He married Mary Jane King about 1872, and had by her: John Collins; Morton Osborne; Frank; Lillie May; and Charles Saunders. Malvina, born in 1845, probably dead by 1860; Mary Eveline Bland, born 1847; Martha Ellen Bland, born in 1850 and died July 7, 1883. Martha married John Washington Anderson on January 1, 1867, and had children by him: Luther Osborne Bland, born 1854, married Eva _____ about 1881, and died about 1882. By 1900, Eva was living in Addison, Shelby County, Indiana. She and Osborne Luther had three children: William, "Ossie," and Everett.

Meredith Bland was born about 1813 in Virginia, and died after 1880 in Jennings County, Indiana. Meredith married Priscilla Burge, also born in 1813, but not mentioned in Meredith's will which was written in 1875, suggesting she was dead before then. They had a family of ten children, including: Eliza G. Bland, born in 1836, who married Thomas Eubank in March 1860; George Meredith, who was born in 1840; Nancy Elizabeth Bland, who married Leonard W. Cole about 1865. She was born in 1843 in Jennings County, and died in Minneapoli Minnesota in 1907. The Reverend Thomas Bland (twelfth generation) conducted their wedding.[1] Mary Bland was born in 1844, and died between 1865 and 1875. Margaret Bland, born 1849 and died before 1860. Benjamin M. F. Bland was born in 1851. Lucy Bland was born

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[1] Among the children of Leonard Cole and Nancy Bland was Harry DeWitte Cole, who married Sarah Ann Williams. They were parents of Jane DeWitte Cole, who married Marcel Mitby in Denver, Colorado, on January 6, 1936.

in 1855. Ruth Bland was born in 1857, and Olive Bland was born after 1870.

The fifth child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was James Bland (twelfth generation), who was born September 28, 1806 in Clark's grant, Indiana, and died June 1, 1869, in Keokuk, Lee County, Iowa. He married on December 22, 1831, Sarah Nichols, who was born August 29, 1814. James Bland and Sarah Nichols had a family of six children (thirteenth generation), including: (1) Nancy Bland, who was born in 1833; (2) Mary Jane Bland; (3) Calvin Bland, who was born in 1840 (Calvin is said to have fought in the Civil War and died at Shiloh); (4) John S. Bland, born 1843; (5) Sarah E. Bland, born 1846; (6) Theresa Bland, born in 1849.

The second child, Mary Jane Bland (thirteenth generation) was born October 3, 1835, and died December 8, 1910. On September 25, 1853, she married Thomas L. McCammon (1829-1907) in Jefferson County, Indiana. Later, Thomas McCammon and Mary Jane Bland moved to Crescent, in Logan

County, Oklahoma. They lived in Jennings County, Indiana, however, until after the Civil War, and had there a family of five children (fourteenth generation), one of whom was Sarah Ellen McCammon (1854-1932) who married Samuel Marsh Spencer, May 12, 1872. Samuel Spencer and Sarah Ellen McCammon had a daughter (fifteenth generation), Fannie Spencer, who was born in 1874. She in turn married Joseph J. Griffith in 1894, and by him had seven children, the fifth of whom was (sixteenth generation) Elva Griffith Reitz.[1]

The sixth child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was Nancy Bland, who was born in 1811. Nancy is said to have married a Bland, and to be buried with him in Vermillion County, Indiana.

The seventh child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was William Bland, born about 1813, who died in his infancy and is buried in Jefferson County, Indiana. The eighth and ninth children, Phoebe, born June 30, 1816, married Dr. Daniel Chitwood, and Elizabeth, were said by Luella Bland, of Brownstown, Indiana, to be twins. Elizabeth Bland never married. The tenth child was Minerva Bland, whose birthdate is uncertain. Minerva married James Thomas. The eleventh child of James Bland and Jane Johnston was Francis Marion Bland. He was born, according to Luella Bland, October 18, 1824, and died November 1, 1909, in Jefferson County, Indiana.[2] Francis married Rachel Hall on February 6, 1851. Rachel was born in Ohio in 1833. Francis and Rachel had eight children (thirteenth generation), including: James Chitwood Bland, who married Luella Craft. Their daughter (fourteenth generation) was

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1 Elva Reitz to Charles Bland, November 21, 1981.

2 Francis Marion Bland delivered a family historical paper at a Bland Reunion of 1900.

Sitting: Second from left, Mary Jane Bland (1835-1910) and Thomas L. McCammon (1829-1907).

Courtesy: Elva Reitz.

Martha Needham Bland (1808-1895) and Moses Bland (1819-1873).

Courtesy: Robert Wheeler.

Luella Bland, now living in Brownstown, Indiana;[1] Mary; William; John, born in 1859; Frank, born in 1861; Eva, born in 1864 in Indiana; Jennie Jane, born 1868 in Indiana; and Kenneth, born in 1869.

The Pennsylvania Connection

In my own research, I have not been able to find a source for the Bland family's use of the name Moses, and because of the huge gaps in early evidence, it is impossible to tell if the siblings of William Bland (eighth generation) in their own marriages, might have named their sons Moses. In 1758, a Moses Bland died in Cumberland County, Pennsylvania, leaving a legacy to James and Margaret Reid, his executors.[2] In 1768, there was a Thomas Bland, who was receiving mail in Philadelphia.[3] Such disparate notes do not make up a family pattern, but do give evidence that some of the 18th century Virginia Blands may have moved to Pennsylvania, and during the westward movement, met up with and married their cousins.

There does appear to be at least one evidence of this. The census of Jennings County, Indiana for 1850 shows the following family:

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1 Letter, Luella Bland to Charles Bland, November 1981.

2 Dawson Notes, citing Lyingstedt, Vol. 2, p. 37.

3 Dawson Notes, citing Scott, Buried Data. Dawson Notes, citing J. F. Smith, A History of Kentucky, also indicates that a "Mos" Bland was captured by the Indians in 1782, in Kinchloe Station in Spencer County, Kentucky, but escaped, indicating that a Moses Bland was among the earliest settlers in Kentucky. The Kinchloe Station episode in the Bland family history will be discussed in greater detail in Chapter X.

Name	Age	Occupation	Origin
Moses Bland	30	Farmer	Pennsylvania
Polly	36		North Carolina
George H.	9		Indiana
Samantha	6		Indiana
John W.	3		Indiana [1]

The prime researcher into this family is Mr. Robert Wheeler, of Lebanon, Oregon. Mr. Wheeler found in Oregon a record of marriage on March 15, 1837 in Bartholomew County, Indiana, between Moses Bland and Martha Needham. According to Mr. Wheeler, a Needham Family Genealogy indicates that she was the daughter of a Nancy Bland and John Needham, and that this Nancy Bland was the daughter of Moses Bland of Randolph County, North Carolina.

There are some inconsistencies here. Martha's birthdate in the marriage record indicates that she was born March 28, 1808 in Randolph County, North Carolina, but in the census of Jennings County, Indiana for 1850, she is enumerated as aged 36 (born 1814). Also, neither Moses (ninth or eleventh generation) had a daughter Nancy Bland, but James Bland (eleventh generation) and his wife, Jane Johnston, did have a daughter Polly Bland, born about 1797. Polly Bland (possibly a nickname) married William Needham. Now, William Bland (tenth generation), father of James Bland (1773-1832) and grandfather of Polly Bland (1797-), transacted business with both John and William Needham in Randolph County, North Carolina in 1800-1801.[2] Thus, althou there is lack of precision in linking Martha Needham to the Randolph County Bland family, the evidence of westward movement to Indiana, her indication that she was born in Randolph County, and the substantia

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[1] Letter, Robert Wheeler to Charles Bland, November 20, 1981.

[2] Randolph County Deed Book 8, February 15, 1800, p. 143, and February 4, 1801, p. 311.

interaction between the Bland and Needham family suggests tangibly that there was a connection.

So Moses Bland, born by his own acknowledgment about 1819 in Pennsylvania, died in Linn County, Oregon, September 18, 1873. He married on March 14, 1837 or 1838, Martha Needham, who was born by her account March 28, 1808 (1814 in the 1850 Census) in Randolph County, North Carolina, and died July 18, 1895 in Lebanon, Oregon.[1] Martha's obituary notice indicated that she had six children, but census records only recorded three born in 1840, 1843 and 1846. If the known Bland generations are applied, assuming that Polly, the first daughter of James Bland and Jane Johnston was Martha's mother, then Martha is thirteenth generation. The children of Moses and Martha then would be fourteenth generation through the maternal line.

George Hester Bland, the first child of Moses Bland and Martha Needham, was born November 9, 1840 in Indiana, and died in Lebanon, Linn County, Oregon in 1905. George married twice. His first wife was Barbara A. Leedy, whom he married in May 1862. One child, William A. Bland (fifteenth generation) was born in this marriage. William A. Bland later moved to Colorado. Barbara Leedy died in December 1864, and George Hester Bland remarried in January 1866 to Clara M. Powell. Clara died in April 1897. George Hester Bland and Clara M. Powell had four children (fifteenth generation): Matilda O. Bland, who married John Myler; Minnie L. Bland, who married Marion Needham; Samantha R. Bland, who married D. W. Lawrence; and Clara P. Bland.

The second child of Moses Bland and Martha Needham was Samantha Bland, who was born July 17, 1843, and died July 26, 1904, in Lebanon, Oregon. She married Ambrose Powell on February 25, 1864.

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[1] John Needham and Nancy Bland had a family of thirteen children, including a son Moses.

The third child of Moses Bland and Martha Needham was John Wesley Bland, who was born May 4, 1846 and died in Lebanon, Oregon, March 13, 1923. John Wesley Bland worked as a farmer and carpenter. He was a Republican in politics and a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church. He married, on September 28, 1865, Elizabeth Jane Powell. The children of this marriage were: Lillie Frances Bland, who died before 1903, and married twice, to Dexter Harris and Charles Blodgett; Merida Pete, or Meredith Bland, who married Laura Connett;[1] Saloma Bland, who married Homer Osburne; Carrie, who married William Calkins; Lucy Bland; Charles Bland; and Mae Bland.

The story of Moses Bland's move to Oregon with his family is told interestingly by Mr. Wheeler. A wagon train was formed by Jennings and neighboring counties in February 1851, for a trip across country. Among them were Moses Bland, Martha Needham and their family, some friends and neighbors. The wagons, pulled by oxen, with livestock being driven by riders on horseback, crossed the Missouri River and by spring had struck out across the western plains, with Oregon as their destination. The wagon train had a peaceful journey which took about six months. During the trip, they encountered no trouble with Indians who, at that time, were not disturbed by the migrants. Moses and Martha arrived at the Willamette Valley settlement on August 25, 1851, and then moved to Lebanon, where they received a donation grant of 305 acres.[2]

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1 Merida Pete Bland and Laura Connett were the grandparents of Robert Wheeler.

2 Robert Wheeler indicates that Moses and Martha had with them five yoke of oxen, one cow, one mare, and two negro slaves. Mr. Wheeler notes that the two negro slaves "should be a clue to my Bland family. It was illegal to hold slaves either in Indiana or Oregon." Robert Wheeler to Charles Bland, November 20, 1981.

This Moses Bland is an instance where a Bland was born in Pennsylvania, met a North Carolina Bland descendant, and moved first to Indiana, then to Oregon. Another Pennsylvania connection that begins in the late 18th or early 19th century is that of William Bland, who was born at Philadelphia May 1, 1802 and died in Henry County, Indiana, April 17, 1886. William was a cooper by trade and a member of the Universalist Church. His relationship to the main branches of the Bland family, if any, is not clear.[1]

William married, on November 2, 1827, Sarah Ann LaBoyteaux, who was born in Ohio September 25, 1805, and who died in Henry County, Indiana March 13, 1890. The marriage occurred at Cincinnati, Ohio. Subsequently, William and Sarah moved to Liberty Township in Henry County, Indiana, where they had a family of seven children, who included: Jacob Andrew Bland, who was born September 6, 1829 and died July 12, 1903 in Great Bend, Barton County, Kansas.[2] Jacob Andrew Bland married, on December 27, 1849, Elizabeth J. Peed, who was born May 31, 1831 and died June 22, 1893. Their children were: Lena, born in 1850, and Frank, born in 1853, both of whom died in infancy; Ora, born at Newcastle, Indiana, April 12, 1857 and died August 14, 1946. Ora married William E. Hayes in October 1879. William Hayes and Ora

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1 Eleanore Hayes Smith, of Tucson, Arizona, who descends from William, has information that suggests William Bland was the son of William Bland of London, who married Mary Rose of New Jersey. In a phone conversation I learned that Mrs. Smith obtained this information from a genealogist, and is uncertain of the substance of the connection between William of London, and William of Pennsylvania. Eleanore Hayes Smith to Charles Bland, November 17, 1981.

2 Jacob Andrew Bland was a diarist, and mentions a cousin, Edward Bland of Little River, Kansas, who was the son of Landon Bland, who Mrs. Eleanore Hayes Smith believes was the brother of William Bland (1802-1886). Jacob Andrew Bland and Elizabeth Peed lived in Indiana until 1863, when they moved to Chariton, Iowa where they lived until 1874, when they moved to Great Bend.

Bland were the grandparents of Eleanore Hayes Smith. Other children of Jacob Andrew Bland and Elizabeth Peed were Carrie, born in 1860, who married Frank Brinson; and Effie Bland, who was born May 13, 1870 and died January 18, 1923. She married John Phillips.

The younger children of William Bland and Sarah Ann LaBoyteaux were Mary Ann Bland, who was born February 2, 1831, at New Castle, Indiana. She married Alexander L. G. Miller, May 25, 1856. Thomas D. Bland was born in 1834 in Indiana. He married on December 31, 1856, Eleanor J. Milliken, whose birthdate is unknown, but who died in 1903. William W. Bland was born in 1837 in Indiana, and he married September 1875, Mary E. Misener. Catherine Bland was born May 30, 1842 and died June 8, 1868. She was married to George H. Beck on September 27, 1863. John L. Bland was born in 1845 and married Sarah J. Hamilton on January 9, 1878. Clark, or Clarkson, Bland was born in 1847, and married Mary Hamby (or Hanby) May 6, 1871.[1]

The family of Moses Bland (ninth generation) is obviously not nearly as well developed as that of his half-brother, James Bland (ninth generation, C.1707-1774), which seems to be unique in the intensity of genealogical interest among descendants. Yet it is interesting to note that the composition of Moses Bland's family was almost identical to that of James Bland. Both brothers had two sons. Moses had six daughters,[2] while James had five. There are many unanswered questions about the descendants of Moses Bland, one of the most

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1 The foregoing information was supplied the author by Eleanore Hayes Smith, letter dated November 17, 1981.

2 It is possible that the Nancy Bland who married John Needham, and was the mother of Martha Needham, who married Moses Bland, was the daughter of Moses Bland (ninth generation). If she were married to John Needham by 1799, which is probable, Nancy's name may have been logically omitted from Moses' will.

critical ones being the relationship of the Moses Bland in Pennsylvania in 1758, to the Moses Bland of Randolph County, North Carolina.

Having discussed the first two known sons of William Bland (eighth generation), James (C.1707-1774) and Moses (C.1718-1799), and their descendants, it is time now to turn to William Bland's son Thomas.

Thomas Bland of Fauquier County, Virginia (Ninth Generation)

The third son of William Bland (eighth generation) and the second son by his marriage to Catherine Key, was Thomas Bland (ninth generation). The history of his family and his descendants has been researched by Urilla Bland, of Weston, West Virginia. This family comprises the main theme of Miss Bland's "Additional Collections for the Ancient Family of Bland."[1]

The exact birthdate of Thomas Bland is not recorded, but it is fairly easy to establish his birth at about 1719. In 1740, he was a creditor in the estate of Francis Stone, for a very small amount, and four years later in 1744, he served as a witness to a deed in Fairfax County.[2] To serve as a witness to a deed, he would have had to be twenty-one. Further, Francis Stone's debt to him was so small that if he had been a minor, it is doubtful the amount would have been recorded in an estate settlement. Remember also, that Thomas' father William Bland (eighth generation) married Catherine Key on

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1 James Edgar Brown, Genealogy of The Brown Family (1930), pp. 548-569, and passim, also deals extensively with Thomas Bland and his descendants, especially Thomas Bland (tenth generation) and his wife, Sarah Byrne.

2 Dawson notes, citing Dorman, pp. 91-92, and NGSQ, p. 114.

February 6, 1716/1717. Moses Bland (C.1718-1799) was the eldest son of William and Catherine. The above information then makes it a safe bet that Thomas was born about 1719.[1] It is a matter of record that Thomas died sometime between April 1, 1788, when he made his will, and September 22, 1788, when his will was proved.[2] As an adult, traces of Thomas are found in Dettingen Parish, Prince William County in 1748.[3] By 1759, or 1760, it was evident that Thomas Bland owned property on the Occoquan near Bull Run, and that his property was near a road to Loudon County, Virginia.[4] It is also obvious that Thomas was involved in land transactions in King and Queen County, with a man who could have been his younger brother William, and perhaps owned land there as early as 1771.[5]

During the American Revolution, Thomas enlisted, perhaps as early as 1776, for a three-year tour of service as a sergeant in the First Virginia Regiment, commanded by Lieutenant Burgess Bell. He served

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1 There was a Thomas Bland who was contemporary to Thomas of Prince William and Fauquier, Virginia, who evidently lived in York County, Virginia, and was a Colonel in the American Revolution. No more is known of him. He may have been a member of the James River family, or might have migrated during the 18th century, after settlement of the James River and Stafford County families. Dawson notes, citing Bell, p. 52, and Dorman, Vol. 21, p. 31.

2 UMB-1, p. 65, citing Fauquier County Will Book 2, p. 136.

3 Vestry Book of Prince William County, Dettingen Parish, November 1748, Dawson notes.

4 Dawson notes, citing The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 20, pp. 42, 287-288.

5 Dawson notes, citing The Virginia Gazette June 27, 1771, and E. G. Chamberlayne, Vestry Book of Stratton Manor Parish, King and Queen County, Virginia, 1729-1783, pp. 214, 228. Cf. pp. 392-396.

from May 1, 1777 to November 1, 1779, and 1785 and 1786, received back pay and a warrant for military service.[1]

Some insight into the religious life of Thomas Bland as well as his political and perhaps ideological outlook on the eve of the American Revolution is provided by a "Petition of Prince William County Baptists," vestrymen of the Occoquan Baptist Church, on May 19, 1776, which was signed by Thomas Bland and James Born Bland, who might have been a cousin. The petition called for freedom for the parish vestrymen to worship God without interruption, to elect and maintain their own ministers, and freedom from payment to any other religious denomination (e.g., the Church of England) for burials, marriages, etc.[2]

Thomas apparently received a fairly generous bequest from his father when the latter died, for he left 449 acres of land to his own son Thomas (tenth generation).[3] In addition, in 1780, Thomas and his

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1 UMB-1, p. 66, citing Virginia State Library War Vol. 4, p. 121. Virginia State Library Auditor's Account Book, Vol. XXVII, p. 274, U.S. War Department Records, and Sons of the Revolution Papers of Robert Linn Bland. Cf. Dawson notes, citing Brumbaugh, p. 22. Fleet Vol. 4, pp. 1, 40. It is possible that some references to Thomas Bland in King and Queen County may refer to a son of William Bland of that county. Cf. pp. 392-396.

2 VMHB, Vol. 18 (1910), pp. 38-39.

3 See will of Thomas Bland that follows.

wife sold land on, and a mill located on the north side of the Occoquan for a sum of "8,000 pounds of current money" (pounds sterling).[1] In 1777, Thomas and his son Henry leased and released to Moses Davis, 100 acres of land south of the Occoquan that had been given to Thomas by his father.[2] In 1778, Thomas acquired four slaves, a woman named Phyllis and her children, Nell Grace and Charles.[3]

County lines shifted so that, although Thomas' residence did not change, by the time of his will in 1788 he resided in Fauquier County. His will is important in the linkages that document his family in later generations and therefore it seems worthwile to print it in full:

> In the name of God, Amen: I, Thomas Bland, of the County of Fauquier and the State of Virginia, being sick in body but of perfect sense and memory...do make this my last will and testament...
>
> I give and bequeath to my son Thomas Bland, all my tract of land lying and being in Prince William County on the Waters of Powell's Run, to him and his heirs forever, except the lot of land lying and being on the waters of Powell's Run in Prince William County, whereon William Cornell now lives, containing one hundred and thirty-acres. Item. I give and bequeath to my youngest son James Bland, all that lot of land lying and being on the waters of Powell's Run in Prince William County whereon William Cornell now lives, to him and his heirs forever, the said land containing one hundred and thirty acres. Item. I give and bequeath to my youngest son James Bland all my right and title to the land whereon I now live, which said land I leased of Benjamin Harrison and lies in Fauquier County. Item. I give my said son

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1 Prince William Deed Book U, pp. 100-101, May 2, 1780, cited in UMB-1, pp. 66-67, and Dawson notes.

2 Prince William Deed Book T, 1733-1800, pp. 361, 363. Cited in Dawson notes.

3 UMB-1, pp. 66-67. See will of Thomas Bland, April 1, 1788, above.

> the colt my bay riding mare is now with foal with. Item. I give and bequeath to my daughters Catherine and Mary Bland, two negroes named Nell and Moses to them and their heirs forever. I likewise give to my daughter, Mary Bland, one featherbed and furniture. Item. I give to my son Thomas Bland and his heirs, one negro woman named Phyllis. Item. I give unto my son James the rents of the two plantations whereon Humphrey Colvert and William Cornell now live for six years next ensuing the date of my decease, which said rents my desire is that my executors shall apply to the education of my son James Bland, and to no other use. All other my estate, my desire is, shall be sold in order to discharge my just debts...I nominate, constitute and appoint my loving wife Jane Bland and Thomas Bland and Benjamin Harrison, Executrix and Executors to this my last Will and Testament... this first day of April, 1788.[1]

According to Urilla Bland, the Jane Bland who was Thomas' wife was the widow of Joseph Smith, so she was Jane _____ Smith Bland. There is no information, and no reliable means to deduce the information about when Jane was born or when she married Thomas. Jane died sometime between 1797 and 1802.[2]

Thomas Bland (ninth generation) and Jane _____ Smith had seven children, all tenth generation. They were: Henry Bland; Elizabeth Bland Stone; Nancy Bland Harding; Thomas Bland; James Bland; Catherine Bland; and Mary Bland. In the will of 1788, specific bequests are made to Thomas Bland and to James Bland, "my youngest son," and to

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1 Will of Thomas Bland, made April 1, 1788, proved September 22, 1788. Fauquier County Will Book 2, p. 136. Copies of the will were provided the author by Urilla Bland and Albert Hunter. The will is quoted fully in Brown, pp. 559-560. Cf. Prince William Deed Book X, May 2, 1792, p. 122, in which division is certified of land deeded by the proprietor to William Bland (eighth generation) in 1726, which was bequeathed to his son Thomas, who in turn bequeathed 130 acres to his minor son James in 1788 (suggesting that James was born in 1771), and 448 acres to Thomas Bland (tenth generation).

2 UMB-1, p. 65, citing Fauquier County Will Book 3, p. 387.

daughters Catherine and Mary. No bequests were left to Henry, Elizabeth or Nancy. Evidence for their linkage to Thomas and Jane Bland are provided from other sources. On October 6, 1777, Thomas and his son Henry were involved in a land transaction previously mentioned. In addition, Henry Bland was living in King and Queen County in 1782. Who Henry married, if anyone, and the names of his descendants, are not known. Regarding Elizabeth, Thomas, on May 2, 1785, deeded a slave girl named Grace to Elizabeth Stone, wife of Spilsby Stone, and identifies Elizabeth as his daughter.[1] Nancy Bland received from her father on May 2, 1785, a slave boy named Peter, and she is identified as Nancy Harding, wife of George Harding of Stafford County, and daughte of Thomas Bland. Other information, probably relying on the same primary source, shows that Nancy Bland married George Harding, of Stafford, about 1785.[2]

James Bland was a minor of about seventeen when his father died.[3] James Bland later married Susannah Starke,[4] on July 19, 1800, in Fauquier County. Nothing is known of them but that they were still living in Fauquier County when on September 5, 1803, they deeded the land that had been reserved to James by his father in 1788, to one Jane Kempe.[5]

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1 UMB-1, pp. 67-68, citing Prince William Deed Book W, p. 108.

2 UMB-1, p. 68, citing same source as on p. 370, note 3, and Dawson notes, citing Lyingstedt, Vol. 10, p. 23.

3 Cf. UMB-2, p. 65.

4 Nancy Chappalear and John Gott, Early Fauquier County, Virginia Marriage Records 1759-1854 (1965), p. 12.

5 Dawson notes, citing Fauquier Deed Book I, 1800-1802, p. 190. Cf. p. 367 , note 1.

TABLE XXIV

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS BLAND OF FAUQUIER COUNTY, VIRGINIA: FIVE GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____.

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____.
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717.

(9) Thomas Bland (C. 1719-1788) = Jane _____ Smith.

(10-1)	(10-2)	(10-3)	(10-)
Henry Bland (C. 1756-)	Thomas Bland (C. 1765-1792), married Sarah Byrne about 1785.	James Bland (C. 1771-living in 1803), married Susannah Starke.	Daughters: Elizabeth Bland, married Spilsby Stone. Nancy Bland, married George Harding. Catherine Bland. Mary Bland.

(11-1) John Buckner Bland (C. 1787-1868), married Ann Lewis Bridgeford.

(11-2) Samuel Bland (C. 1789/1790-1815), did not marry.

(11-3) Thomas Bland (1793-1867), married Mary Newlon.

TABLE XXV

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BUCKNER BLAND OF LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY: FIVE GENERATIONS

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____.
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717.

(9) Thomas Bland (C. 1719-1788) = Jane _____ Smith.

(10) Thomas Bland (C. 1765-1792) = Sarah Byrne (1768-1831), about 1785.

(11) John Buckner Bland (C. 1787-1868) = Anne Lewis Bridgeford (1798-1891), November 6, 1820.

(12-1)	(12-2)	(12-3)	(12-4)	(12-5)
Thomas Bland (1821-died young).	Harriet Bland (1823-died before 1894), married (1) William C. Francis; and (2) Alfred Riley.	Theodore Bland (1825-died after 1894), married Sallye G. Wilson.	Matilda Bland (1827-died by 1894), married William Burkhardt.	Patrick Henry Bland (1829-living in 1894), married Emma Wise.

(12-6)	(12-7)	(12-8)	(12-9)	(12-10)
Emily Bland (1831-died young).	John V. Bland (1833-living in 1894), married Mary Miller.	Thomas Bland (1835-died young).	William Bland (1837-dead by 1894), married _____.	Preston Bland (1839-living in 1894), married Jennie Chenoweth.

Thomas Bland (Tenth Generation)

The remaining child, and second son of Thomas Bland (ninth generation) and Jane _____ Smith was Thomas Bland (tenth generation). Urilla Bland estimates that Thomas was born about 1765. Thomas was perhaps the first of the line running from James (seventh generation) to William (eighth generation) to Thomas (ninth generation), to move away from the Quantico Creek area, or to attempt to do so. One may recall that in his father's estate of 1788, Thomas had inherited 448 acres, being "all my tract of land lying and being in Prince William County on the waters of the Occoquan,"[1] excepting land presently lived upon by another party. On May 3, 1792, Thomas deeded these 448 acres, described as "both sides of the middle fork of Powell's Run,"[2] to Samuel Byrne, his father-in-law. Thomas had married, about 1785 or 1786, Sarah "Sally" Byrne, Samuel's daughter, who was born on February 16, 1768, in Prince William County, Virginia, and died March 7, 1831 near Reedsville in Preston County, now West Virginia.

The sale of the 448 acres to his father-in-law was evidently a means for Thomas of raising money to move his wife and family to Kentucky, with the notion of settling near his wife's relations. He left on the journey in November 1792 with his wife, who was then pregnant, and their two small sons and some slaves. When the party reached Winchester, Virginia, Thomas grew chill, fell desperately ill, and died the same night. By Brown's account, Thomas had reached the home of Sarah's

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1 P. 371,note 1.

2 Prince William County Deed Book Y, p. 122, cited in Brown, p. 603.

relatives when he became ill. He did not die suddently, but one day was sitting at a well when a slave man walked by. Thomas, apparently burning with fever, asked the slave to pour three or four buckets of water over his head. The water was intensely cold and Thomas Bland died a few hours later. Thomas is buried at Winchester, Virginia, and his approximate dates then are C.1765-1792).[1]

After burying Thomas Bland, his widow Sarah returned to the home of her parents, in Prince William County, where on January 19, 1793, her son Thomas Bland (eleventh generation 1793-1867) was born. During the same year, 1793, Sarah's father died. In 1794, Sarah, with her widowed mother Clarissa "Clary" Byrne, and her three young sons, went again to the home of John Fairfax at Winchester, Virginia, where they both subsequently met new husbands. In 1794 or 1795, Saray Byrne Bland met and married Jacob Zinn.[2]

During their brief marriage, Thomas Bland (tenth generation, C.1765-1792) and Sarah Byrne (1768-1831) had the following children (all eleventh gneeration): John Buckner Bland, who was born about 1787 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died April 8, 1868, in Louisville, Kentucky; Samuel Bland, born about 1789 or 1790, who served as a private in the War of 1812, and died about 1815 at the home of his relative, John Anthony Buckner, near Parkersburg, Virginia, enroute to his home (Samuel was unmarried when he died); and Thomas Bland, the

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1 The story of Thomas' preparation for his trip west and his death is told in UMB-1, p. 69. The facts are generally corraborated by evidence in Brown, pp. 64, 89, 108, 573, 603.

2 UMB-1, pp. 69-70, and Brown, pp. 89-90, 177. UMB-1, pp. 70-71 and 75-90, provides a brief sketch of the ancestry of Jacob Zinn.

child that Sarah Bland was carrying when her husband died. He was born on January 19, 1793 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died July 11, 1867 at Jane Lew, West Virginia.[1]

John Buckner Bland (Eleventh Generation)

John Buckner Bland (1787-1868, eleventh generation) as a young man moved west to Louisville, Kentucky. Enroute, he stopped in Morgantown, Virginia (now West Virginia) and learned the cooper and silversmith trade. According to Urilla Bland, he stayed for a short time at Weston, West Virginia, "with his brother Thomas in the Bland Hotel, assisting his nephew Theodorick Bland, who was acting as deputy sheriff of Lewis County at the time."[2] Following this interlude, he moved on to Louisville, Kentucky where he married Ann Lewis Bridgeford on November 26, 1820. Ann was born on August 27, 1798, and died October 30, 1891 in Louisville, Kentucky.

The children of the marriage of John Buckner Bland (eleventh generation, 1787-1868) and Ann Lewis Bridgeford (1798-1891) were as follows (all twelfth generation):

(1) Thomas Bland, born in 1821 and died in infancy; (2) Harriet Bland, born in 1823. The date of her death is unknown, but she was dead by 1894. She married first, Captain William Chertis Francis in

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1 UMB-1, pp. 71, 72, 74, 91, and Brown, pp. 89-90. In a letter to Mary Lorentz, Theodore Bland stated that Thomas and Sarah had a son Andrew, but no one ever knew anything about him. Neither Brown nor Urilla Bland make any mention of him. If there was an Andrew Bland, perhaps he died young. Theodore Bland said to Mary Lorentz, "one or both of the brothers, Samuel and Andrew, were blown up and killed in the fort at the same time General Pike was killed." Brown notes that Samuel served at Fort Meigs, Virginia.

2 UMB-1, p. 72, and Brown, p. 90.

1850, and second, Alfred A. Riley. (3) Theodore Bland, born March 17, 1825 in Louisville, Kentucky.[1] The date of his death is uncertain, but as an adult he moved away from Louisville, and on March 24, 1862 married Sallie Garnett Wilson in Cameron, Texas. Sallie Garnett Wilson died June 29, 1884. In his letter to Mary Lorentz, Theodore Bland recalled that over fifty years before 1894, he had been a citizen of Weston:

> ...I suppose the changes that have taken place since then in individuals, general appearance of the town, and the extended limits of the town are so great that I should scarcely recognize the town, if I should again visit it, nor could I hope to enjoy a visit, when all the familiar landmarks and nearly all the familiar faces of my companions and associates live only in memories of the past.[2]

The children of Theodore Bland (twelfth generation) and Sallie Garnett Wilson were (thirteenth generation): John Buckner Bland; Robert Theodore Bland; and Mary Letitia Bland.

(4) Matilda Bland was born in Louisville, Kentucky in 1827. The date of her death is uncertain, but she was dead by 1894. Matilda married William Burkhardt and by him had a daughter, Emily Burkhardt, who married Harvey Thomas. Harvey and Emily lived in Cincinnati and Louisville, and both were killed in an automobile accident on March 30, 1927, in New Orleans, Louisiana. Urilla Bland indicates that Harvey

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1 Theodore wrote a letter to his cousin, Mary Lorentz, on March 23, 1894, in which he thanked her for her letter dated March 17, 1894, "my 69th birthday." Brown, pp. 556-557.

2 Brown, pp. 558-559.

and Emily had three children, including Anna Thomas, who later married Richard W. Donigan. She was a close correspondent and friend in genealogical research with Robert Linn Bland (1868-1957).[1]

(5) Patrick Henry Bland, who was born in Louisville in 1829. His date of death is unknown, but he was living in 1894. Patrick married Emma Wise, a native of Terre Haute, Indiana. Patrick and Emma had a daughter Virginia, who married Chisley Jackson.

(6) Emily Bland, who was born in 1831 and died young.

(7) John V. Bland, born in Louisville in 1833, who married Mary Miller. In 1894, Theodore Bland, his brother, indicated that John and Mary had a family of five children.

(8) Thomas Bland, who was born in Louisville in 1835, and died young.

(9) William Bland, born in 1837, lived to adulthood and married, but was dead by 1894.

(10) Preston Bland, born in 1839, married Jennie Chenoweth but had no issue by her. He was living in 1894.[2]

Thomas Bland (Eleventh Generation)

The third child of Thomas Bland (tenth generation) and Sarah Byrne was Thomas Bland, who was born after the death of his father on January 19, 1793, at Dumfries, Prince William County, Virginia, and died July 11, 1867 at Jane Lew, Virginia. Thomas was an infant when

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1 UMB-1, p. 73. Cf. discussion in Chapter VI, pp. 196 ff.

2 This outline of the family of John Buckner Bland and Ann Lewis Bridgeford is found in UMB-1, pp. 72-74. Inasmuch as this was not Urilla Bland's direct line of descent, it is offered by her only in skeletal form. Aside from excerpts in Theodore Bland's 1894 letter to Mary Lorentz (Brown, pp. 556-559) I have seen no other references to this line, which is in need of a genealogist.

his mother remarried to Jacob Zinn who was, in effect, the only father Thomas ever knew. He grew up alongside his half-brothers and sisters and served in the War of 1812 as a private in the Infantry, Sixth Regiment of Virginia Militia. He was discharged from the service on August 13, 1814.[1] As a soldier in that war, Thomas was present at the siege of Fort Meigs, where his nephew Theodore later claimed his brothers Samuel and Andrew were killed. Thomas Bland was a tanner and one of the founders of what is now Weston, West Virginia, lifetime home of Urilla Bland.[2] He was an extensive landowner; he built, lived in and managed the first hotel in Weston (called Bland's Hotel, or Weston Inn, which burned to the ground in 1886). He built a large grist mill and operated a tannery near the hotel. He was Deputy Sheriff of Lewis County. He was a vestryman in the St. Paul's Episcopal Church, was one of the original directors of the first bank in Weston, established on July 26, 1852. He was a school commissioner for Lewis County, and also was a political man. First, he was a Justice of the Peace and Mayor of Weston. He served in the Virginia Assembly, first in the House of Delegates (1823-1827), and later in the Senate (1838-1844), and he was his district's representative at the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850. He was an elector for the Jackson-Van Buren ticket in 1832. Perhaps his most substantial contribution to history was in his request that an unknown young man named Thomas Jackson, whom he claimed was "of good demeanor and upright deportment,"

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1 Brown, pp. 562-565.

2 UMB-1, p. 96.

Thomas Bland (1793-1867)

Mary Newlon Bland
(1796-1879)

Courtesy: Urilla Moore Bland.

TABLE XXVI

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS BLAND OF WESTON VIRGINIA (NOW WEST VIRGINIA): FIVE GENERATIONS

(8) William Bland (C. 1686-1744) = (1) _____.
(2) Catherine Key, February 6, 1716/1717.

(9) Thomas Bland (C. 1719-1788) = Jane _____ Smith.

(10) Thomas Bland (C. 1765-1792) = Sarah Byrne (1768-1831), about 1785.

(11) Thomas Bland (1793-1867) = Mary Newlon (1796-1879), December 10, 1815.

(12-1)	(12-2)	(12-3)	(12-4)	(12-5)
William John Bland (1816-1897) married Columbia Ann Madison Jackson Duncan.	Theodorick Granville Bland (1819-1845), did not marry.	Minerva Ann Bland (1821-1895), married Matthew Edmiston.	Amanda Bland (1824-1907), married John Brannon.	Thomas Bland (1829-1834).

(12-6)	(12-7)	(12-8)	(12-9)
Mary Sisson Bland (1832-1886), married Jacob Lorentz.	Edward Bland (1835-1907), married Lavina Evans.	Newton Benton Bland (1839-1896), married Mary Saphronia Jane Linn.	John Thomas Bland (1842-1876), did not marry.

be admitted to West Point.[1] This young man was admitted to West Point in 1842, and became known to Civil War historians as Stonewall Jackson.

On December 10, 1815, Thomas Bland married Mary Newlon, of Loudon County, Virginia.[2] They were married at Pruntystown, Harrison County, Virginia, which is now Lewis County, West Virginia. Mary Newlon was born on May 1, 1796 and died December 31, 1879.[3] Both Thomas and Mary were buried in the Old Hill Cemetery in Weston.

Thomas Bland (1793-1867, eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon (1796-1879) had a family of nine children. They were all twelfth generation and as follows:

(1) William John Bland (1816-1897); (2) Theodorick Granville (1818-1845); (3) Minerva Bland (1821-1895); (4) Amanda Bland (1824-1907); (5) Thomas Bland (1829-1834); (6) Mary Sisson Bland (1832-1886); (7) Edwin Sloane Bland (1835-1907); (8) Newton Benton Bland (1839-1896); (9) John Thomas Bland (1842-1876).

William John Bland (twelfth generation) was born on November 10, 1816 at Kingswood, Virginia, and died at Clarksburg, West Virginia on February 17, 1897. His early life was spent in Lewis County, Virginia, where, according to his own memory, his grandmother, Sarah Byrne Bland

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1 In UMB-1, pp. 91-94, Urilla Bland serializes the achievements of her great-grandfather, Thomas Bland (1793-1867). Cf. Brown, pp. 562, 564-565.

2 UMB-1, p. 91. The fact that Mary Newlon was from Loudon County, Virginia, which was adjacent to Prince William and Fauquier, as well as Fairfax, is indicative of the close ties the Bland family had to the Loudon area.

3 The genealogy of the Newlon family is discussed in depth by Urilla Bland. Cf. UMB-1, pp. 121-173.

Zinn, read Bible stories to him.[1] He received a common school education and in the 1830's was Deputy Sheriff of Lewis County (his brother, Theodorick Granville, was the Sheriff). At age seventeen, he began the study of medicine and graduated from the Louisville, Kentucky School of Medicine in 1842. He became the first physician in Weston, Virginia. William John Bland was an active Democrat in politics, and served as Justice of the Peace in 1846, and as a school commissioner. When the Civil War began, William John Bland volunteered for the Confederate Army as a surgeon in the 31st Virginia Infantry, and became Chief Surgeon of William L. Jackson's brigade of Lomax's division.[2] Urilla Bland tells an interesting story about the home of William John Bland in Weston, which he had purchased in 1853, a story which will be told when discussing William John Bland's wife. Following the Civil War, William John Bland represented Lewis County three times in the State Legislature and from 1881-1889, was Superintendent of the West Virginia State Hospital for the Insane at Weston.

On February 17, 1858, William John Bland married Mrs. Columbia Ann Madison Jackson Duncan at Clarksburg, Virginia. Columbia's birthdate is unknown but she died April 1, 1901 at Clarksburg, West Virginia. She was the daughter of Judge John George Jackson and his second wife, Mary Meigs. Both in her birth and marriage, Columbia was tied to considerable wealth and political prestige in Virginia and Ohio.[3] Her obituary saluted her in grand Victorian style:

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1 Brown, pp. 562, 566, and UMB-1, pp. 94-108.

2 Citing Bosworth's History of Randolph County in UMB-1, p. 95, Urilla Bland states that in an army of 4,000, when confronted with the necessity of a dangerous scouting feat, Dr. William Bland was one of only five men who volunteered for the mission.

3 UMB-1, pp. 94-95. Urilla Bland discusses Columbia's ties through birth and her marriage.

> This grand old lady was adorned by all of the queenly graces of true and noble womanhood. She was beyond question in early life one of the most charmingly beautiful women in the country, highly educated, a fine conversationalist, kind, gentle, and charitable. Her distinguished father's high position in society afforded her the opportunity to become such a cultured woman.[1]

Lest one mistake this eulogy as a sort of epitome of Victorian "True Womanhood," let it be known that beneath all that kindness, gentility and charity, there breathed a lot of fire and steel that ranks this lady high on the list of notable women who married Bland men, right along with Susan Deblere and her daughters-in-law, Sarah Green of London, and Anna Bennett of Virginia. Urilla Bland relates a feature story in a recent issue of the "Weston Democrat" from which the following is paraphrased:

It seems that William John Bland purchased in July 1853, a house in Weston which had been built at about the time of the founding of Weston. On May 1, 1863, he conveyed the property to his wife. Now William John Bland was a Southern sympathizer, obviously, but his marriage was one of those which highlighted the truly tragic nature of this unique war, for his wife was the granddaughter of a Governor of Ohio, who was a close friend of a fairly influential man of his day, Abraham Lincoln.

This was the time between the northern victories that began to accumulate at the end of 1862, the sudden surge of Northern morale that was infused in its troops and citizens following Lincoln's issue of the Emancipation Proclamation, and the battle of Chancellorsville, which claimed the life of that young man Thomas Bland had recommended

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[1] UMB-1, pp. 95-96.

to West Point, Stonewall Jackson. Jackson's death and the cataclysmic (for the Confederacy) battle of Gettysburg the following July ended the few remaining tactical and strategic chances that the outgunned, outnumbered and outpoliticked Southern nation had. But even in May, for those really in the know, the South was doomed. It was against this backdrop that William John Bland wisely deeded his home to his wife, not knowing among other things whether he would survive the war.

Within a week of this event, a General Roberts marched into Weston with his troops and commandeered the Bland home as his headquarters. Originally, Roberts allowed Mrs. Bland and her children to use two rooms of the house that were out of the way, but presently he sent word that they were to be sent to Camp Chase, a federal internment camp in Ohio. Mrs. Bland confronted Roberts who, as the story goes, had his boots propped up against her fine furniture, and curtly told him that she was not going to Camp Chase but to the home of her grandfather, Governor Meigs, of Ohio. This consummate bit of name-dropping prompted Roberts to provide special transportation for Mrs. Bland to make her trip to Ohio. After she related the story to her grandfather, and he to Abe Lincoln, General Roberts quit the Bland house and was relieved of his command. Mrs. Bland returned to Weston and her home, and lived there without event until the war was over. Quite a lady![1]

William John Bland (twelfth generation) and Columbia Ann Madison Jackson Duncan Bland had two children (thirteenth generation): Meigs Bland (1859-1934) and William Thomas Bland (1861-1928). Meigs Bland was born on June 9, 1859 at Weston, Virginia, and died at Richmond,

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1 This story is recounted in UMB-1, pp. 96-98.

Virginia in February or March 1934. He was trained at the University of West Virginia and Kenyon College, in Ohio, and became first a school teacher in Weston, and later, Assistant Principal of the Weston High School. He trained for law at the University of Virginia in 1883 and graduated from the University of West Virginia Law School in 1884. Later, he moved to Atcheson, Kansas, and Kansas City, Missouri. According to James Edgar Brown, whose genealogy of the Brown family was published in 1930, Meigs was still in Kansas City, but he evidently moved again to Richmond, Virginia, where he died in 1934. Meigs Bland married Louisa (or Lutie) Houston Allen on June 23, 1886, at Buchannon, West Virginia.[1] During their marriage, they had one child (thirteenth generation), William John Bland, who was born on April 20, 1887 and died in battle during World War I, at the battle of St. Mihiel, France, on September 12, 1918. He had graduated from Kenyon College, probably about 1908. During his military service, he attained the rank of Major.[2]

The second child of William John Bland (twelfth generation) and Columbia Ann Madison Jackson Duncan Bland was William Thomas Bland, who was born November 3, 1861 at Weston, West Virginia, and died in

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1 Meigs Bland biography is from Brown, pp. 566-567. UMB-1, pp. 98-103, details the lineage of Louisa Allen.

2 UMB-1, pp. 103-106, and VMHB, Vol. 27 (1919), p. 74. Urilla Bland includes several eulogistic pieces on this William James Bland (thirteenth generation). His brief life is also treated by Brown, pp. 567-568. The 1900 census of Atcheson County, Kansas, shows Meigs Bland, age 41; "Birdie," age 31, born in Kansas; and William M. Bland, born 1894 in Kansas. Also in the household was W. F. Bland, born January 1861, Meig's brother. "Birdie" was William's wife.

Orlando, Florida on January 24, 1928. He graduated from the University of West Virginia in 1884 with a degree in law, was admitted to the Virginia bar and practiced at Weston. In 1887, he moved to Atcheson, Kansas and served variously as County Attorney, Mayor, and Circuit Court Judge for two terms. In 1901 he retired from politics and started a drug business. In 1904 he moved the business to Kansas City, and took along some 350 employees, thus establishing himself quickly as a leader in business. He was the U. S. Congressman of the Fifth Missouri District from 1918-1920, after which time, he moved to Orlando Florida and lived out his life there.

In 1891 or 1892, Judge Bland married Bertha (Birdie" Helen McPike, of Atcheson, Kansas, who was born on May 2, 1868, and died at Orlando, Florida September 28, 1944.[1] Their only child was William Thomas Bland (fourteenth generation) who was born on November 27, 1894, who was evidently still living in 1974.

William Thomas Bland (fourteenth generation) married Aura May Wimer (born May 25, 1898, date of death unknown) on December 22, 1924.[2]

Let us now return to the second child of Thomas Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon. He was Theodorick Granville Bland (twelfth generation) who was born in 1818 or 1819, and died July 15, 1845.[3] He was the county sheriff of Weston in the 1830's, and lived at his father's hotel. His deputy was a cousin, Theodore Bland (1825-1869). Theodorick never married.[4]

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1 Ibid.

2 UMB-1, pp. 107-108, and Brown, p. 569.

3 Theodorick's tombstone stated that he died "in his 27th year." UMB-1, p. 108.

4 Ibid. Cf. Brown, pp. 558, 565.

The third child, and first daughter of Thomas Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon was Minerva Ann Bland (twelfth generation) who was born September 16, 1821 and died July 23, 1895. On February 13, 1840, Minerva married Judge Matthew Edmiston and they had seven children. Minerva lived her entire life and died in Weston, West Virginia.[1]

The fourth child, and second daughter of Thomas Bland and Mary Newlon was Amanda Bland (twelfth generation) who was born at Weston, January 12, 1824, and died at Weston, August 24, 1907. She was remembered by her cousin Theodore Bland as "one of the belles of the village...the best and most graceful dancer of the town."[2] She married at Weston on July 6, 1848, John Brannon (1821-1901) who served in the Virginia Assembly 1853-1857, the Virginia Senate 1857-1861, was a Captain in the Confederate Army, and a circuit judge from 1872-1881. During their marriage they had four children.[3]

The fifth child, and third son of Thomas Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon was Thomas Bland. His dates are, born June 29, 1829, and died October 20, 1834 at Weston.

The sixth child, and third daughter of Thomas Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon was Mary Sisson Bland, who was born at Weston on November 28, 1832, and died at Glenville, West Virginia, on December 29, 1886. Mary's middle name, which none of Urilla Bland's antecedents was able to explain, gives rise to a hunch by Urilla that its source was an ancient relation between the Blands and the Sissons

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1 UMB-1, pp. 109-113, details the descendants of Minerva Bland and Matthew Edmiston.

2 UMB-1, p. 113, and Brown, p. 558.

3 UMB-1, pp. 113-115, details the descendants of Amanda Bland and John Brannon.

that is discussed in some detail in Chapter VI.[1] The reader may recall that Mary's father, Thomas Bland, was a delegate at the Virginia Constitutional Convention of 1850. Mary attended the convention with her father and there met and became engaged to a Senator Ransom, of North Carolina, but "they had a falling out," and so Mary returned home to Weston, where she met Jacob Lorentz and married him on September 30, 1852. Jacob Lorentz and Mary Sisson Bland had nine children, one of them, Mary B. Lorentz, the recipient of an 1894 letter from her cousin, Theodore Bland (1825-).[2]

The seventh child, and fourth son of Thomas Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Newlon was Edward Bland, who was born on October 14, 1835 at Weston, and died February 1, 1903 or 1907 at Sutton, West Virginia. Edward was admitted to the Virginia bar in 1859, and practiced law in Weston, Glenville and Sutton. In 1874-1875, he was principal of the Weston Schools.

Edward married Lavina Evans, of Morgantown, West Virginia, on November 10, 1859, and by her had nine children (thirteenth generation) including seven sons and two daughters. Of the seven sons, three married, though it is unknown whether they actually had children.[3]

The eighth and ninth children, and fifth and sixth sons, of Thomas Bland and Mary Newlon, were Newton Benton Bland and John Thomas Bland (twelfth generation). Because Newton Benton was Urilla Bland's grandfather, his line is more extensively treated, and so it is best to discuss first, John Thomas Bland, who was born August 19, 1842, and

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1 Brown, p. 558. Cf. p. 223, note 1.

2 Brown, pp. 556-559, and UMB-1, pp. 115-117, details the descendant of Jacob Lorentz and Mary Sisson Bland.

3 The descendants of Edward Bland and Lavina Evans are detailed in UMB-1, pp. 118-120. This is another line in search of a genealogist.

died in 1876 in Missouri. John Thomas served during the Civil War in the First Company, 17th Virginia. Following the war, John Thomas Bland moved to Missouri, studied medicine and established a practice. According to Urilla Bland, he was killed on the banks of the Missouri River.[1]

The eighth child, and fifth son of Thomas Bland and Mary Newlon, was Newton Benton Bland (twelfth generation) who was born February 2, 1839 at Weston, and died there on March 25, 1896. He studied at the Monongalia Academy in Morgantown, West Virginia, and subsequently received his medical degree from Starling Medical College in Columbus, Ohio, which later became a part of Ohio State University. In 1866, he moved to Jane Lew, Virginia and set up medical practice there. He moved again in 1869-1872, to Glenville, West Virginia, then moved back to Weston, where he remained for the rest of his life. Newton Bland was a first rate scholar, having the facility of reading original Greek and Latin. As a physician, he was recognized as the best diagnostician in Lewis County.

Newton Bland married on June 6, 1867 at Clarksburg, West Virginia, Mary Saphronia Jane Linn, who was born on September 21, 1841 and died January 28, 1910 in Weston.[2] In their marriage, they had four children, all thirteenth generation, as follows: Robert Linn Bland (1868-1957), father of Urilla Bland; Hattie Bland, born August 22, 1871 in Glenville, West Virginia, and died June 11, 1920 in Weston, West Virginia, unmarried; Thomas Bland, who died in infancy; and George Linn Bland (1875-1958).

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1 UMB-1, pp. 120-121.

2 UMB-1, pp. 174-177.

George Linn Bland was born May 3, 1875 in Weston, and died there on January 20, 1958. He was Urilla Bland's uncle. He was employed by the Citizens Bank of Weston, and was its president at the time of his death. On September 16, 1914, in Washington, D.C., George married Marie Francesca de Medici McArdle, who was herself born in Independence, Texas on October 26, 1876, and died at Weston on July 3, 1959. She was the daughter of Texas artist, Harry McArdle. George Linn Bland and Francesca McArdle had two children (fourteenth generation), Ruskin McArdle Bland (1916-), and George Linn Bland, Jr. (1917-).

The eldest child, and first son of Newton Bland and Mary Linn (eleventh generation) was Robert Linn Bland, born June 2, 1868 at Jane Lew, West Virginia, and died June 25, 1957 at Weston. Robert Linn Bland was admitted to the Lewis County, West Virginia Bar Association in 1894, and practiced law thereafter. In 1891, he became the co-owner of the "Weston Democrat," and served later as vice president of the West Virginia Editorial Association. He was the Lewis County prosecutin attorney, member of the West Virginia House of Delegates representing Lewis County, and a special judge in the Lewis, Harrison, Upshur, and Gilmer Circuit Courts. He was the first president of the West Virginia Court of Claims. As indicated in Chapter VI, he was also an avid genealogist of the Bland family, and carried on a lengthy and critical correspondence with many Blands and their relatives.[1] Robert Linn Bland married Rebecca Frances Moore on June 23, 1897 at "River View," in Mason County, West Virginia. Rebecca Moore was born April 12, 1870 at Point Pleasant, West Virginia, and died November 12, 1967 at Weston.

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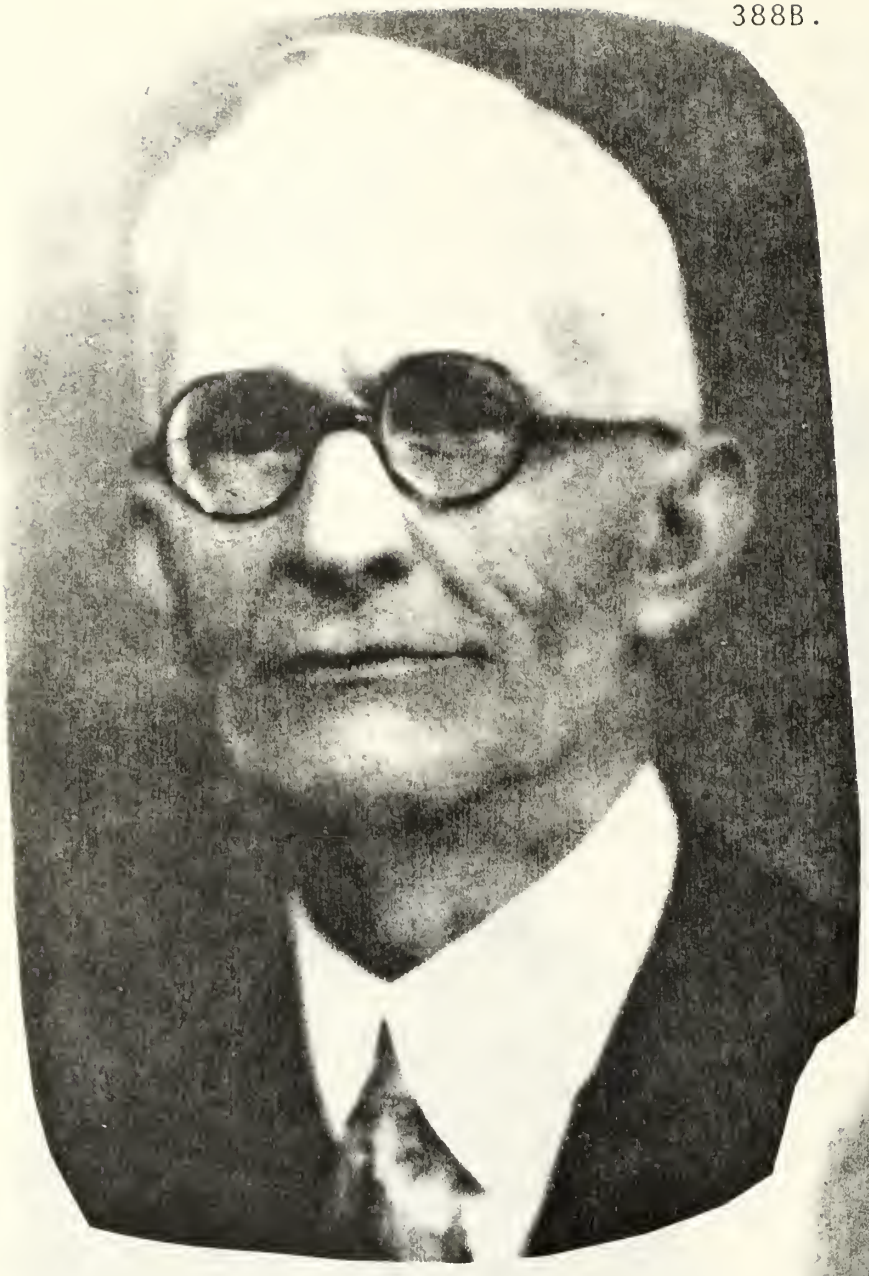
[1] UMB-1, pp. 177-182, discussed Robert Linn Bland and George Linn Bland at length.

Newton Benton Bland
(1839-1896)

Mary Saphronia Jane Linn
(1841-1910)

Courtesy: Urilla Moore Bland.



Robert Linn Bland
(1868-1957)

Rebecca Frances Moore
Bland (1870-1967)

Parents of Urilla
Moore Bland.

Courtesy: Urilla Moore Bland.

She was a writer with two books published: Twilight Reveries, a book of poetry, and Stray Leaves from the Hill Side, short stories and verse. She also was involved in the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Robert Linn Bland (thirteenth generation) and Rebecca Frances Moore had four children (fourteenth generation). Their first child and only daughter was Urilla Moore Bland, whose contributions to the Bland genealogy have been invaluable, and who is the prime mover in the theory that the Bland family in America originated from common English roots. Her story is told in Chapter VI. Urilla Bland was born in Weston on May 13, 1898 and still lives there, with her two surviving brothers. The second child, and first son of Robert Linn Bland and Rebecca Frances Moore was Theodorick Bland. He was born on April 20, 1901 at Weston and still lives there. Theodorick's father, at the time of his birth, was so convinced that he had descended from Theodorick Bland, of Westover in Virginia (1629-1671, fourth generation) that he named his son after him, but soon discovered his mistake. What a beautiful name to be wrought by error! Theodorick served in World War II, was a former principal in the Weston School System, and is a retired employee of the Federal Land Bank and Farm Credit Association.[1]

The third child, and second son of Robert Linn Bland and Rebecca Frances Moore was Charles Newton Bland (fourteenth generation), who was born in Weston on August 24, 1902, and died December 11, 1966. Charles served in World War II as an officer in the legal division of the U.S. Air Corps, and in later life was a prosecuting attorney for Lewis County.

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[1] Let it be known also, should someone open these pages one hundred years from now when all of us will be gone, that I visited this wonderful family with my wife and children on June 23, 1981. Theodorick entertained my infant son, Thomas Eliot Bland, touched his heart, and brought a beautiful smile to his lips. Later, Urilla Bland wrote that Theodorick wanted to adopt Tommy.

The fourth child of Robert Linn Bland and Rebecca Frances Moore was Robert Linn Bland (fourteenth generation), who was born October 6, 1905, in Weston, West Virginia. Robert served in World War II and taught in the Weston Schools for more than forty years.

Urilla Bland and her brothers, Theodorick and Robert, live together in a beautiful old house in Weston, West Virginia; all are retired from work and none of them married. They mark the conclusion of known lines that descended from James Bland, of Stafford County's first son William Bland (1686-1744) through his son Thomas (1719-1788).

Missing Links

This extended discussion of the descendants of William Bland (eight generation) through his sons James (C.1707-1774), Moses (C.1718-1799) and Thomas (C.1719-1788), has been possible because of the availability of direct evidence that links these sons to William. The evidence has been discovered, refined and elaborated upon by a number of genealogists In the case of Thomas, almost exclusive credit goes to Urilla Bland, of Weston, West Virginia, and of course, her father, Robert Linn Bland and his correspondent, Anna Thomas Donnigan. In the case of James Bland, since the death of Milton Wilson, of Bartow, Florida in 1956, the chief catalyst for research in the family has been William Graham Bland, of Jacksonville, Florida,[1] but he has been aided by many other researche particularly in recent years: Albert Hunter, of State College, Pennsylvania; young Stephen McLeod, of Tallahassee, Florida; and a number of

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[1] Parker, Aldermans in America, also is an invaluable source for this branch.

historians who have explored their particular branches and have been able to contribute very useful information to this work. In the case of Moses Bland, Max Kessinger, Berniece Mumford, Robert Wheeler, Elva Reitz and Luella Bland have studied their particular lines, but to my knowledge no synthesis of the Moses Bland branch of the family has been done to date.

In addition to these three sons, William Bland (eighth generation) is said by some researchers, who back up their case with formidable evidence, to have been the father of John Bland, who was born about 1725 and died in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1795. An older school of thought holds that this John was the son of William's younger brother John (C.1688-1762). Strong evidence exists for this latter claim also, and therefore, I have discussed John Bland (1725-1795) and his descendants in Chapter X. There remains, however, the possibility that William Bland (eighth generation) had a son named William. No evidence has been advanced to link a William Bland to William (eighth generation) and so far as I know, there is no historian for such a branch if one exists. Obviously, William would have had to be born later than 1720, and to have left a traceable family. There is some circumstantial information to suggest that such a person lived in and founded a family of Blands in King and Queen County, Virginia, which was formed in 1691, and lies southeast of the Stafford-Prince William-Fairfax area.

William Bland, of King and Queen County, Virginia

Previously, I indicated that Thomas Bland (ninth generation, 1719-1788) appears to have had some transactions in King and Queen County with a William Bland, and that one of his sons Henry, was living in King and Queen County.[1] Since genealogical evidence and research in this area has been very slight, if not non-existent, the reader should treat this hypothesis with critical caution. It can be no more than a beginning. Nevertheless, the interaction between Thomas Bland (ninth generation) and his sons, with another family of Blands in King and Queen County, does seem to point to a relationship, perhaps between siblings.

In his history of King and Queen County, Malcolm Hart Harris indicates that two men named John and Henry Bland were in the county between 1699 and 1704.[2] Their relationship to the Stafford County Bland family, if any, is uncertain. No Blands appear in the records again until 1759, when a William Bland was appointed to survey land. How old he was at the time does not appear, but other information, too tedious to recite here, indicates that he had at least four sons, the eldest of whom was born no later than 1746, and possibly daughters.

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1 Cf. p. 368, note 5.

2 Malcolm Hart Harris, Old King and Queen County History (1977), pp. 309-310, 553. The names Henry and Arthur are fairly prominent in the Stafford County family. There is no way of knowing for sure, unless other information turns up, but Henry and John, and the Arthur found in Maryland in 1710, might have had some relationship to James Bland (seventh generation, 1655-1708).

The known sons and daughters were married. Though William's age cannot be ascertained, it would appear from the above information concerning his eldest son that he was born in the early 1720's, making him younger than Moses and Thomas Bland, if indeed he was their brother, and considerably younger than his half-brother James. A 1782 survey of Land Tax returns shows that "William Bland Senior" held 120 acres. An assessment of freeholders for personal property tax assessments in 1783 showed "William Bland Senior," living with his son William. In 1761, the elder William was appointed to care for an indigent person, and in 1767,[1] he and his wife, as well as his son William, purchased a pew in Stratton Major Parish Church. William Senior appears to have had four other sons: James, Richard, John and Thomas.[2] I was able to find no additional information about William Bland Senior.

William Bland Junior, as he appears in the records, was the eldest son of William Bland Senior. First reference to him appears in 1767, and he is noted several times during the 1770's and 1780's in both King and Queen, and Prince William Counties. He served in the Revolution as part of the Third Virginia Regiment.[3] His active service probably ended after three years, and by 1781 he was active in supplying the Virginia Army.[4] William died in King and Queen County in 1794,[5] therefore there are fairly clear parameters in his life (C.1746-1794).

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1 Dawson notes, citing the Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 20, p. 188.

2 William Senior may have had another son, Christopher, who was killed during the first year of the Revolution, in 1776. Dawson notes, citing Brumbaugh, p. 405.

3 Dawson notes, citing Fleet, Vol. 5, p. 11, and Saffel, p. 276.

4 Dawson notes, citing Fleet, Vol. 33, pp. 11, 14.

5 Dawson notes, citing Fleet, Vol. 28, p. 53.

William married Mary _____ sometime before 1767,[1] and by 1783 had four living children indicated on a county rent roll: Mary Ann, Robert, William and Molly.[2] Between 1783 and 1794, when William Junior died, his wife had at least one additional child, Lucy, for in 1794 William's son, Robert Bland, took custody of his minor sisters, Mary Ann and Lucy. This Robert Bland was an adult by 1794, and about 1799 he married Mary Waller of Stratton Major Parish. Robert served in the War of 1812, where he evidently attained the rank of Captain, for he was known as Captain Robert Bland. He held a total of about 525 acres of land in 1820, near his brother John. He and his wife had a son Robert, known later as Colonel Robert Bland, who was born in 1800. The date of his death is unknown. This Colonel Robert Bland had a brother John, a teacher who was known as Gentleman John, and whose daughter (name unknown) married William Carr.[3]

I suspect, but cannot definitely prove, that the second child of William Bland Senior was James Bland, born sometime in the late 1740's or early 1750's. In 1843, his widow, Amy Samuels, who was then 83 (born in 1760) applied for a Revolutionary War Pension, based upon James Bland's service. Corraborating testimony by several individuals

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1 Dawson notes, citing the Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 20. The recor of Christ Church Parish Register, p. 197, preserved by the Virginia Genealogical Society, Some Marriages in the Burned Record Counties of Virginia (1972), p. 11, records a William Bland, Jr. marrying Mary Ann Corr (Carr?) on February 20, 1792. Entries for three other Blands, married between 1787-1791, are recorded on pp. 265-268, suggesting that sequentially, the 1792 date for William Jr. and Mary Corr might be a misprint.

2 Harris, p. 310. There may have been a son, Ralph, who married Frances Carr April 15, 1787.

3 For information about Robert Bland, see Harris, pp. 310-311, and Dawson notes, citing Bagby, pp. 298, 324, 328.

who knew James and Amy created a fairly clear picture of their lives. It is apparent that James Bland was born and lived in King and Queen County. One witness testified that James served in the Second Virginia Regiment from January 12, 1777 to January 24, 1780, and his wife testified that he had served under a Captain Waller (note that Robert Bland later married a Mary Waller, daughter of Edward Waller, of King and Queen County; a Thomas Bland, Jr., as will be noted, married Sarah Waller). James married Amy probably in 1781, because a witness testified that they had a daughter Elizabeth, who was 13 in 1795. Elizabeth married James Taylor, but the date of their marriage is unknown. There were other children born to James Bland and Amy Samuels, but the exact number is not known. Amy was still living in 1748.[1]

The third son of William Bland, Thomas, appear to have been born before 1751, for in 1772, he was named to survey land in King and Queen County. Mr. Dawson's notes show that Thomas was engaged in various land transactions and that he served in the Revolution. In 1783,[2] Thomas held 200 acres of land and was married to Amy_____, and they were parents of the following minor children: Thomas; Ann; Elizabeth; Polly; and a minor male in Thomas' custody, John Graves. Thomas Bland, Jr. married Sarah Waller in Christ Church Parish.[3]

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1 John F. Dorman, Compiler, Virginia Revolutionary Pension Applications, Vol. 7 (1962), pp. 62-63.

2 Fleet, Vol. 4, p. 38.

3 Virginia Genealogical Society, Some Marriages in the Burned Records Counties of Virginia (1972), p. 11. The same source shows a Ralph Bland marrying Frances Carr, April 15, 1787.

Little is known of the two remaining sons of William Bland Senior. Richard Bland in 1782 held 150 acres, and he may have been the same Richard Bland who on March 14, 1789, married Mary Bowden (or Bond) in Christ Church Parish.[1] John Bland in 1782 held 30 acres in King and Queen County, but in 1785, had increased his acreage to 60.[2] By 1820, John's son John owned 412 acres adjacent to the land of his cousin, Robert Bland.[3]

Richard Bland, of Prince William County

Two ifs (which admittedly could dull Occam's Razor) might suggest the possibility of another son of William Bland (eighth generation), Richard Bland. IF William Bland Senior, of King and Queen County, was a son of William Bland of Prince William (eighth generation), and IF, as is usually true, names carry over from father to sons and between brothers, then there might be a tentative case, founded on naming similarities and geographic proximity that a Richard Bland of Prince William County, was yet another son of William Bland (eighth generation).

Information about Richard Bland is scant, not backed up by primary evidence, and is based entirely upon two letters written in 1933 and 1947.[4] When Richard was born is uncertain, but it must have been no

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1 Ibid.

2 Fleet, Vol. 4, p. 38.

3 Harris, pp. 310-311.

4 George W. Bland to Ernestine Lewis, Clarksburg, West Virginia, November 16, 1933; and Donald F. Black to Robert Linn Bland, Parkersbur West Virginia, November 18, 1947. Both letters supplied to me by Urilla Bland, of Weston, West Virginia. Cf. p. 349 re: Minor Bland.

later than about 1730, for in 1752, Richard's wife gave birth to a son, Joseph Bland. Joseph was a Tory in the Revolution, and fought on the British side, sustaining what was no doubt a very just wound in the knee at the Battle of Yorktown. In the late 1780's, Joseph went to Frederick County, Virginia, where he married Susan Bailey Johnson, a widow. They settled near Winchester, Virginia, and Susan in 1789 gave birth to a boy named Richard. Following Richard's birth, Joseph's family returned to what is present-day Monongalia County, West Virginia, settling near Blacksville, where Susan gave birth to David and Thomas Bland, and possibly others. David settled in Wetzel County, Virginia, while Thomas, upon his marriage, moved to Green County, Pennsylvania.

Richard Bland (born in 1789) about 1812 married Mary Jobes, daughter of William Jobes and sister of John Minor Jobes,[1] who lived near Blacksville on the north side of the Pennsylvania line. Richard was a very strong, large and powerful man, who lived until 1883; thus, his dates were 1789-1883. He was a Democrat, but voted for William Henry Harrison for President because they were second cousins.

Richard Bland (1789-1883) and Mary Jobes had a family of six children, including three sons and three daughters: William J. Bland; Joseph Bland; Richard J. Bland; Perdilla Bland, who married John Nelson Bee; Elsa Bland, who married Able Noble; and _____, who married William H. Metheney. The eldest son, William J. Bland, married Sarah Stiles, and by her had Drusilla Bland, who married _____ Sherwood; John Bland, who married Elizabeth Cowan; Simon Bland, who married Clara Greathouse; Ann Bland, who married _____ Burton; Mary Bland, who married _____ McClain; Ruhama Bland, who married _____ Hickman; Sarah Jane Bland, who married _____ Holliday; and Richard C. Bland.

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1 Cf. p. 349 re: Minor Bland.

John Bland and Elizabeth Cowan had five sons and two daughters: two sons died in infancy; Arthur Cowen Bland; Robert Bland, who married Bertha White, of Logan, West Virginia; and George William Bland, who married Lucia Leonore Charter; daughters, Johanna Bland, died at age nineteen, and Mary Bland, married B. B. Janes.[1]

Thomas Bland, of Pendleton County, Virginia

Mr. Thomas C. Bland, of Lafayette, California, in researching his own family line, has traced his ancestors to one Thomas Bland, whom he believes was born about 1740 and died May 22, 1826 in Pendleton County, Virginia.[2] This Thomas Bland married two women: Margaret _____; and after her, Rachel Shoulders. He mentioned in his will the following children: Job; George; Enoch; Elizabeth, who married Jessie Davis; and Rachel. He also mentioned Henry Bland, who was born April 25, 1770 and died March 27, 1853, in Pendleton County, Virginia. He married Margaretta Weirich first, and subsequently married Mary Dolley. One of his sons (by which marriage is not clear) was Solomon Bland, who was born on May 23, 1800 and died February 18, 1877. He married Abigail Phares about 1817, and during their marriage the family moved to Milford Center, Ohio. One of their children was

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1 Ibid. Cf. p. 349 , note 1. The similarity of some of the names in this family of Richard Bland (1789-1883) and Moses Bland (1772-1848) is close enough to suggest the possibility of a close relationship, though corraboration by evidence will be necessary to prove it.

2 Thomas C. Bland to Urilla Bland, July 11, 1976. Cf. Dawson notes, citing Morton, History of Monroe, p. 80.

John Bland, who was born July 14, 1825 and died January 30, 1900, in Waldo, Ohio. He married in 1848, Margaret Kennedy.[1] The parentage of Thomas C. Bland's furthest back ancestor, Thomas Bland, is uncertain. Some of the information about the family was derived from Morton's History of Monroe, which also indicates the following:

> Bland, Robert (died C.1795) seems to have been the father of Robert (Anna) of Peters Mountain Valley, whose son Robert was born here in 1784. Children: Robert (1784-1857); Esther E. (M. James McKinney 1813); James (M. India Dawson 1813); Joshua (M. Polly Shires 1807). Joshua, probably a brother of Robert, had Robert (M. Elizabeth Hand 1808).[2]

Odds and Ends

Some of the Bland family descending from James Bland (seventh generation) through his four sons, undoubtedly remained in Prince William or counties nearby, and in many cases, have undoubtedly not been traced. The following inscriptions are found on gravestones in the Greenwood Primitive Baptist Church, in Prince William County near Minniesville: James A. Bland (1854-1914); Wesley Bland (1835-1911); Perry L. Bland (1879-1913); Mary C. Bland (1840-1914); Edward Bland (1838-1915).[3]

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1 This line of descent was carried on from John Bland (1825-1900) to John Lewis Bland (January 14, 1852-September 14, 1889) who married Ora Boal Coe on September 28, 1876, in Milford, Ohio, and died at Anoka, Minnesota. His son, Richard Coe Bland (May 6, 1883-January 21, 1942) married Ina May Askin on December 29, 1922, and died at St. Louis, Missouri. Richard Coe Bland's son was Richard Erskine Bland, who was born March 29, 1924, and married Catherine Shuey, July 7, 1948. Their son was Thomas Conrad Bland, Miss Urilla Bland's correspondent.

2 Homer T. Jones to Nel Ford, March 4, 1958.

3 Workers of the Writers Program of the Works Projects Administration, Prince William: The Story of Its People and Places (1941), p. 102.

This concludes discussion of the immense family that descended from James Bland, of Stafford County, Virginia (seventh generation) through his son William, who married an unknown woman about 1706 and subsequently, in 1716/1717, married Catherine Key. The following chapter is devoted to the descendants of William's younger brother, James Bland (C.1687-1755).

CHAPTER IX

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATION

The Founder

The second son of James Bland (seventh generation) when he formed his will in 1708, was James Bland (eighth generation). The exact age of James is unknown, but it is assumed that he was born in 1687. This is because he and his elder brother William obviously were the only two children of James Bland (seventh generation) who were adult when his will was formed in 1708. Williams' birthdate is generally considered to have been 1686, and for James to have been the second eldest child and an adult in 1708, he would have had to be born in 1687. The date of his death is somewhat more certain. His will has been lost, but indirect evidence indicates that it was made by James on February 16, 1755, and probated March 22, 1756.[1] So it is safe to place James' life in the parameters of 1687-1755.

I have earlier stated that evidence indicates James was especially close to his older brother William, and in discussing William's acquisition of property, I showed how James shared in many of these acquisitions. Among other things, it may have been this frustration at being long excluded from control of family finances which was exercised by these two older brothers that ultimately drove William's oldest son James(ninth generation) to New Hanover County, North Carolina.

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[1] Bond of Mary Bland and Benjamin Bland as executors of James Bland, March 22, 1756, Prince William Deed Book I, p. 5. Cf. Prince William Deed Book Y, p. 664, March 25, 1796.

By his father's will dated December 22, 1708, James Bland received a bequest of 125 acres of land near Powell's Creek on the Occoquan River. On August 29, 1710, James consummated a three-way acquisition with his brother and Francis Stone for 354 acres on the Occoquan.[1] To this was at some time added 360 acres, which in total was divided equally between the three principals in 1718. James then, in 1727, sold his one-third share, about 120 acres, to one Linton.[2]

In 1711 or 1712, James Bland, along with his brother William and Francis Stone again purchased 257 acres (James' one-third share, about 86 acres) at Cock Pitt Point, between Powell's Creek and the Quantico River.[3]

In 1723, James was assessed taxes for 320 acres of land in Stafford County,[4] a quantity that squares closely with the acquisitions he had made since the death of his father (125 acres in 1708; 118 in 1710; and 86 in 1711-1712). He appears to have acquired an additional 165 acres sometime between 1726-1729,[5] and on November 27, 1742, acquired 271 acres in Prince William County.[6]

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1 UMB-1, pp. 59, 61, citing Stafford Deed Book 4, p. 48; Stafford Deed Book I, 1722-1728, p. 404, and P.W. County Deed Book X, June 1, 1789, p. 237. Cf. Dawson Notes, citing Virginia Genealogical Society Publications, Vol. 10, p. 98.

2 Ibid. James Bland, of New Hanover County, N.C. (ninth generation) later claimed William Bland's 120 acres in this transaction. See Book F, p. 120, Northern Neck Land Grants, cited in UMB-I, p. 61, no date cited.

3 Stafford County Book No. 4, p. 50, cited in UMB-1, p. 50.

4 King, Stafford County Records, Overwharton Parish, 1723-1758, p. 14

5 Dawson Notes, citing Stafford Book B, p. 112.

6 Virginia Calendar of State Papers, Vol. I, p. 237. One may recall that in 1730, James purchased jointly with William, 570 acres on the Occoquan, but in 1739, James gave his half of the property to William, and in turn, William's son James Bland (ninth generation) of New Hanover County, N.C., sold the 570 acres to James Ingo Dozier in 1761. Prince William Deed Book I, p. 86.

TABLE XXVII

THE FAMILY OF JAMES BLAND OF STAFFORD-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA: SIX GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700) = (1) _____, about 1654.
(2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674.

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____ .

(8) James Bland (C. 1687-1755) = Mary _____ Gwatkins, about 1723.

(9-1)	(9-2)
Benjamin Bland (1724-1771), married Mary _____.	Arthur Bland (C. 1725-1763), married Mary _____.

(10-1)	(10-2)	(10-1)	(10-2)	(10-3)
James Bland (-1802), married Margaret _____.	Charles Bland (1765-1842), married Phyllis Pope (1773-1818).	David Bland ( )	Allen Bland (C. 1764-1814) married Susan _____.	Sithie Bland, married John Currie.

(11-1) John Bland (-1811)	(11-1) Thomas Bland (1791-C.1844).
(11-2) Benjamin Bland (1786-1825).	(11-2) Nancy Bland (1793-)
(11-3) Charles Bland.	(11-3) Sarah Bland (1794-1822)
(11-4) Calvin Bland (1794-1880).	(11-4) Mildred Bland (1796-)
	(11-5) Prudence Bland (1797-)
	(11-6) Benjamin Bland (1799-)
	(11-7) Mary Bland (1800-1884)
	(11-8) Elizabeth Bland (1802-1882)
	(11-9) John Bland (1803-1858)
	(11-10) Keziah Bland (1805-1860)
	(11-11) James Bland (1806-1867)
	(11-12) Julia Ann Bland (1810-1848)
	(11-13) Charles Josiah Bland (1812-1892)
	(11-14) Hiram Bland (1813-1858)
	(11-15) Alemander Bland (1817-1897)

------ Assumed.

Thus, James acquired known property of about 647 acres between 1708 and 1742, about one-third the amount acquired by William. This was enough to qualify him as a voter for the House of Burgesses for Prince William in 1741, and in 1732 James joined his brother William in a copper mining consortium.[1]

James married Mary Gwatkins about 1723. In their marriage, James Bland and Mary _____ Gwatkins had at least two children, both ninth generation, Benjamin and Arthur.[2]

Benjamin Bland (Ninth Generation)

Benjamin Bland (ninth generation) was born about 1724 in Stafford County and died intestate (without a will) in Fauquier County in 1771.[3]

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1 See discussion on p. 272.

2 Mary Gwatkins was a widow, so Gwatkins was not her maiden name. Benjamin Bland, the eldest son by James Bland and Mary _____ Gwatkins, filed a deposition in 1764 in which he (Benjamin) characterized himself as about 40, and stated that his father (James Bland) married the mother of Edward Gwatkins who, according to a Gwatkins Bible record Benjamin had seen, was born in January 1722. Cf. UMB-1, p. 46. It is possible that James Bland (eighth generation) was married before he married Mary Gwatkins. Tylers Genealogical and Historical Quarterly, Vol. 9, p. 121, records a birthdate of July 26, 1738 for James Bland, son of James Bland and his wife Elizabeth, in Isle of Wight County, Virginia. Other records have James Bland and his wife Elizabeth and daughter Sarah in 1756 making an indenture in Prince William County. WMQ 2, Col. 21 (1941), pp. 183-184. This would suggest that James and Elizabeth had at least an adult daughter Sarah in 1756, and a son James born in 1738, and would place their own birthdates at no later than about 1714. Mr. Dawson's notes record a string of traces in PW between 1760 and 1791 for a James Bland, who could be the James born in 1738 and who might be the "Jas. Born Bland" who signed the Petition of Protest by Occoquan Baptists, along with Thomas Bland (1719-1788) on May 11, 1776. VMHB, Vol. 18 (1910), p. 39. Whether James Bland, married to Elizabeth, was the son of James Bland (eighth generation) by a previous marriage is uncertain. Another alternative is that he could have been a son of James' brother John (eighth generation), or could have been an emigrant from England. He could not have been a son of William Bland (eighth generation) by either of his marriages.

3 Benjamin's estate was inventoried August 26, 1771. Fauquier Will Book I, p. 184. Cf. Torrence, Wills, and UMB-1, p. 45.

In the overall history of this family it is important to note that there is no extant evidence to indicate that Benjamin ever accumulated a great deal of land. The only trace of land ownership is in a deed James Bland, Benjamin's father, made in 1746 to Benjamin and his wife Mary for 160 acres, to go to their heirs upon their death, and if there be no heirs, the land to go to Benjamin's brother, Arthur Bland and his heirs.[1] It is interesting to note that at least two D.A.R. members have traced their lineage to James Bland (seventh generation) through Benjamin Bland,[2] and both claim that Benjamin married a woman named Mary _____ who died in 1782, although by 1774, when Benjamin had been dead for three years, this parcel of land had passed to the hands of one of Arthur's heirs.[3]

Benjamin Bland (ninth generation) married Mary _____. The date of their marriage is unknown, but upon the death of Mary _____ Bland, who died between August 3, 1782, when her will was made, and October 28, 1782, when it was proved, eight living children (tenth generation), including five daughters and three sons, were listed.[4]

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1 Prince William Deed Book I, April 28, 1746, p. 63.

2 Mrs. Sallie Thompson Wilson claimed her descent from Benjamin (9) as follows: (10) Charles Bland (1765-1842) married Phyllis Pope (1773-1818); (11) Thomas Bland (1791-C.1844) married Elizabeth Duncan; (12) Thomas Pope Bland (1831-1914) married Levicy Harris (1845-1926); (13) Mattie Elizabeth Bland (1861-1926) married Walter Leslie Thompson; (14) Sallie Thompson married Byron Buford Wilson (Daughters of American Colonists Lineage Book, Vol. VIII (1949), p. 112). The other descendant was Jessamine Bland James, who married Roland James. Mrs. James has transcribed to me a tremendous amount of her research on the family of Charles Bland (son of Benjamin) which I shall discuss presently.

3 Prince William Deed Book U, September 13, 1774, pp. 70-71.

4 The Will of Mary Bland is abstracted in June E. King, Wills, Administrations and Marriages, Fauquier County, Virginia (1939), p. 32, and John K. Gott, Abstracts of Fauquier County, Virginia: Wills, Inventories and Accounts, 1759-1800 (1972), p. 130. Cf. James, Court and Bible Records, p. 10.

Mary Bland made a small bequest in her will to her eldest daughters, Esther Bland, Peggy McAboy, Chloe Pilcher, Amelia Brady, and her youngest daughter, Betty Bland. She also left a bequest to her youngest son "Jackey" (John Bland), who may have married Hannah Randall in Fauquier County on December 1, 1788.[1]

James Bland of Fauquier County, Virginia (Tenth Generation)

The eldest son of Benjamin Bland and Mary _____, his wife, was James Bland, who was named as his mother's executor in 1782. He was, then, born no later than 1761, and probably well before. James died about 1802.[2] The administrix of James' estate was a woman named Margaret, his wife. By 1806, she was in Mason County, Kentucky, where many family members moved following the death of James. The best evidence available is that James and Margaret had seven children (eleventh generation).

The Children (Eleventh Generation) of James and Margaret Bland, of Fauquier County, Virginia

The daughters of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) were Esme Bland, who married Nathan Heath in Mason County, Kentucky, on April 26, 1811; Ann Margaret Bland, who married Calvin Moore, in Mason County Kentucky, on March 31, 1815; and Mary Bland, who married on March 24, 1806 to John Purcell, in Mason County, Kentucky.

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1 Jessamine James, Bland Court and Bible Records, p. 11.

2 Ibid., citing Fauquier Will Book 3, p. 402. James' estate settlement was appraised September 1802, and recorded October 25, 1802.

The eldest son of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) was John Bland. He died in Mason County, Kentucky, in 1811. His younger brothers were Benjamin, Charles and Calvin Bland.

Benjamin Bland, according to a Bible record in possession of Jessamin Bland James, was born in Fauquier County, Virginia on July 20, 1786, and died October 3, 1725 in Mason County, Kentucky. He married on November 24 1813 Mary Rolf, who came to Mason County from Essex County, New Jersey. Mary was born December 23, 1795 and died March 1857. There were five children of this marriage:

The eldest child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf, was James Bland (twelfth generation), who was born November 2, 1814 and died October 11, 1878. He married Hannah Martin on November 16, 1837. Hannah was born October 2, 1817 and died July 25, 1906.

The second child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf was Caroline Bland. She was born April 26, 1816. Dates of her death and marriage were unknown, but she married Francis W. Cleneay. The third child of Benjamin Bland and Mary Rolf was Nathan Bland, who was born December 26, 1817 and died in New Orleans, Louisiana, unmarried, on April 3, 1848.

The fourth child of Benjamin Bland and Mary Rolf was Charles H. Bland who was born September 2, 1819. He married Elizabeth Stith, but the date of his marriage or death is unknown. Benjamin Bland Jr., the fifth child of Benjamin Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Rolf was born November 2, 1821. He married Juliana Marshall.

Nothing is known of Charles Bland (eleventh generation), son of James and Margaret Bland. Their remaining son was Calvin Bland (twelfth generation) who was born in 1794 and died July 30, 1880. Calvin married in

Mason County, Kentucky, Ruth Dye, on December 9, 1818. Ruth Dye, according to the 1850 census, was born about 1793. The date of her death is not known. In 1850, Calvin Bland's household was enumerated in Mason County, indicating Calvin and Ruth, James Bland, aged 30, and John B. Bland, aged 20. A girl, Frances Dye, was also in the household. Another son of Calvin Bland and Ruth Dye was Charles Bland, who was born in 1825. In the 1850 census of Mason County, he was enumerated with his wife, Elizabeth Ann Piles, then 22, whom he had married on August 14, 1846. Also enumerated in the household with Charles and Elizabeth were James Bland, their child, aged 2, Richard C. Bland, aged 13, and Mary E. Allison, aged 16.[1]

Charles Bland of Garrard County, Kentucky

(Tenth Generation)

Of all the eight sons and daughters of Benjamin Bland and Mary, his wife, most is known about Charles Bland (tenth generation). This is chiefly due to the research of Jessamine Bland James, of Tucson, Arizona, who is Benjamin Bland's descendant through Charles. Charles later moved to Kentucky and is linked to Virginia origins by a Power of Attorney on August 9, 1800, to Owen Sullivan, of Fauquier County, Virginia, to sell "one hundred and eighteen acres lying in said county

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1 Information about the descendants of James and Margaret Bland (tenth generation) is taken from James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 11-14, passim.

of Fauquier and being the tract that was formerly purchased of William Pickett by Mary Bland..."[1] In addition, Charles Bland's well kept family Bible with birth, marriage and death dates of Charles, his wife and children, was found and the information copied and recorded for the June 1937 issue of the DAR Magazine by Mrs. James.[2] From the Bible record, as well as from other sources, the following portrait of Charles Bland (tenth generation) emerges.

He was born in Fauquier County on December 2, 1765. Charles made his will May 19, 1842, and it was probated October 1842 at Garrard County Kentucky.[3] Charles served in the War of 1812. He had a sweetheart, Phyl Pope, daughter of Thomas Pope and Ann Duncan. Thomas Pope moved his fami to Lincoln County, Kentucky. Charles Bland followed them, and married Phyllis on January 17, 1791. Phyllis Pope was born May 26, 1773, in Fauquier County, Virginia, and died October 26, 1818, in Garrard County, Kentucky. Garrard County was formed in 1796 from Madison, Mercer and Lincoln.[4] When he married Phyllis Pope, Charles Bland built a brick hous which still stands in present-day Lancaster, Kentucky. Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope had fifteen children. Following the death of Phyllis Pope, Charles Bland remarried in 1821 to Phebe Campbell. Phebe's birthdate is not available, but she died February 22, 1840.[5]

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1 Garrard County, Kentucky, Deed Book B, p. 80, August 9, 1800. Quote by Jessamine James in letter to Charles Bland, November 7, 1980. This lad was received by Mary Bland from William Pickett, Fauquier Deed Book 7, p. 36, May 22, 1779. It was left to Charles in Mary's will of 1782. Cf. Jae Court and Bible Records, pp. 9-12.

2 DAR Magazine, June 1937, p. 559. According to Mrs. James, the Bible itself was in the possession of Ellen Perrin, of Lancaster, Kentucky, and following her death (sometime later) was lost by her relatives. A simila Bible record was found for the family of Robert Bland (ninth generation, 1733-1787) and will be discussed in Chapter XI. Cf. pp. 496 ff.

3 Garrard County, Kentucky, Will Book K, May 19, 1842, p. 526.

4 Jessamine James Bland, Court and Bible Records, pp. 14-16, 22 ff.

5 Ibid.

The Children (Eleventh Generation) of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope

The eldest child and first son of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Thomas Bland (eleventh generation), who was born December 10, 1791 in Lincoln County, Kentucky, and died sometime before June 1844, in Pike County, Missouri. On November 27, 1819, Thomas married in Garrard County, Kentucky, Elizabeth Duncan. Elizabeth was ded by 1843. Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan had eight children (twelfth generation) as lised by Mrs. James. They included: (1) a daughter, unnamed, who married James Moseley, of Bowling Green in Kentucky, and was dead by 1855 when Moseley brought Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan's children to Kentucky; (2) John D. Bland, about whom Mrs. James lists nothing but his name; (3) Mary S. Bland, who married Henry Jameson, of Shelby County, Kentucky. Mary and Henry were named custodians of her younger brother, William Henry, whom Mrs. James says was born about 1842 and brought to Kentucky in 1844, following the death of his father, Thomas Bland. Evidently original custody went to Thomas Bland's brother, Charles Josiah, but by 1856, William Henry wanted to be under custody of his older sister.[1]

The remaining children of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan were: (4) Sarah Prudence Bland, who married George Warner, in Garrard County, Kentucky; (5) Dalzell L. S. Bland, who became an M.D. and married Sallie C____ and lived in Valdalia, Missouri; (6) Elizabeth, who was born in 1833, and died January 8, 1856; and (7) William Henry, born in 1842, noted earlier. The remaining child of Thomas Bland and Elizabeth Duncan whose descent has been traced, was (8) Thomas Pope Bland, who was born October 12, 1831 and died February 3, 1914 in Shelby County, Kentucky. On January 3, 1861, he married Levicy Jane Harris, who was born

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1 Ibid.

April 3, 1845 and died in February 1925. Thomas Pope Bland (twelfth generation) and Levicy Harris had eight children (thirteenth generation) including:

(1) Mattie Elizabeth Bland, who was born December 8, 1861 and died in 1926. On May 24, 1881, Mattie married Walter Leslie Thompson (1856-1939). Mattie and Walter Thompson had eight children (fourteenth generation), including Sallie Ruth Thompson (1890-1968), who was formerly mentioned, and who married Byron Buford Wilson. The remaining children of Thomas Pope Bland and Levicy Harris were: (2) William Leland Bland, born on March 15, 1863. He married Amanda Ritchey on September 25, 1889. (3) Thomas Eugene Bland, born July 13, 1864. Thomas became a physician. He married Matilda Nichols in 1906. (4) Luellen Bland, who married W. T. Sledd. (Jessamine Bland James indicated that she was in college with the children of Mattie Elizabeth Bland and Walter Leslie Thompson, as well as the children of Luellen Bland and W. T. Sledd.) (5) Sallie Prudence Bland, married J. Jewell Sandford, but they had no children. (6) John Henry Bland lived from 1871 to 1890, and never married. (7) Mary Beatrice Bland was born February 2, 1872, and died June 26, 1910. She married George Nathan Busey on December 29, 1899. (8) Harvey Erwin Bland was born February 15, 1885, and died January 18, 1894.

The second child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Nanney (Nancy) who was born on June 4, 1793. It is not certain how long she lived, but she died before her father.

The third child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Sally (Sarah) Bland (eleventh generation) who was born October 11, 1794. and died November 5, 1822. She married Erasmus Wilmot in Garrard County, Kentucky on September 23, 1811.

The fourth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Mildred Bland, who was born on May 1, 1796, and married Thomas Austin in Garrard County, Kentucky on January 2, 1825.

The fifth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Prudence, or Prudentia Bland (eleventh generation) who was born October 1, 1797, and married Robert Austin of Garrard County, Kentucky, on October 12, 1818. Robert Austin was the grandfather of William Austin (thirteenth generation), who in 1882 murdered his Aunt Betsy Bland, as will be shown presently.

The sixth child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Benjamin Bland, who was born March 7, 1799 and died sometime before his father. Mrs. James does not indicate he ever married.

The seventh child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Mary, or Polly Bland (eleventh generation) who was born September 10, 1800 and died August 26, 1884. She married James S. Alderson on July 27, 1823.

The eighth child of Charles Bland (tenth generation) and Phyllis Pope was Elizabeth Bland, known as "Aunt Betsy," who was born February 20, 1802 and died violently on January 20, 1882. She was murdered by her nephew Will Austin, who as noted earlier, was the grandson of Elizabeth's sister, Prudence Bland and Robert Austin. Will was born in 1857, was described as handsome, about 5'11" and 150 pounds, with blue eyes and pale brown hair, clean shaven except for a neat mustache, and he may have had a family; on the other hand, he may not have! In his last hour he spoke with remorse about the "girls he was leaving behind,"[1] but given Will's general character, he might have been talking about the girls at the local saloon.

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1 Louisville Commercial, October 14, 1882, reprinted March 16, 1961.

At any rate, Betsy Bland was a quiet, unpretentious, pious woman who never married and was living in the home left her by her father, Charles Bland, in 1882, when she was murdered. She had been living there with her brother Josiah, known as "Uncle Joe," who had been left a widower many years past and whose children had already grown to adulthood and left home. During the Fall of 1881, Will Austin's father ran him out of his house and Will took up with Aunt Betsy and Uncle Joe, who delighted in idling away his time with the boys in town. January 20, 1882 was such a day. Uncle Joe was in town with the boys and Aunt Betsy was at home preparing dinner when Will, drunk and infuriated about something that had nothing to do with Aunt Betsy, came home, grabbed an ax from the woodshed and split her head open.[1] Will was about as imaginative at covering up his crime as he was in committing it, and was soon apprehended, jailed, tried and convicted. He was hanged on October 13, 1882, and it turned out to be a gala event, with residents whose homes had a view of the gallows scalping tickets at prices higher than the official tickets sold by the local sheriff. It was a scene somewhat similar to the one that unfolded in Greene County, Indiana, in 1851, when Hiram Bland was hanged for the murder of his brother-in-law.[2]

Will Austin was suspected of having committed two other murders and of various thefts and smaller criminal acts. In his last hour, he confessed to the murder of his Aunt Betsy Bland, but denied all other criminal acts of which he was suspected. It is clear also that he

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[1] The original newspaper article of the case went into the anatomical damage in great detail, but I will spare the reader.

[2] Cf. Chapter X, pp. 451-454.

only confessed his aunt's murder when he realized that no one believed his innocence and that he was doomed. As the sheriff slipped the noose around his neck, Will complained, ironically, "You are choking me."[1]

The ninth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope (tenth generation) was John Bland, who was born July 21, 1803 or 1804, and died February 28, 1858. John married Cynthia Ann Cox on February 6, 1845. Cynthia was born in 1815 and according to census records, was still living in 1870. John Bland and Cynthia Cox had three children (twelfth generation): Jeremiah, born in 1846; James H. Bland, born in 1848, who married Sarah _____ about 1869; and Martha E. Bland, born 1849. John may have had a double wedding with his sister Keziah, who was born January 1, 1805 or 1806, and died February 19, 1860. She married James Brown on February 6, 1845. Keziah was the tenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope. The eleventh child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was James Bland, born June 12, 1806 or 1808, and died October 17, 1867. Their twelfth child was Julia Ann Bland, born on January 10, 1810 and died April 8, 1848, who married in Garrard County, Kentucky, on November 17, 1834, Mr. Thomas Pope. The thirteenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Charles Josiah, born March 5, 1812 and died July 1, 1892. He married a Miss Huffman and was the man who was ordered to surrender custody of his nephew William Henry to his sister, Mary Bland Jameson. He also was the "Uncle Joe Bland" who lived with Elizabeth "Aunt Betsy" Bland when she was murdered in 1882. The fourteenth child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Hyram, or Hiram, who was born February 9, 1813 and died February 18, 1858.

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1 Louisville Commercial, October 14, 1882.

The fifteenth and final child of Charles Bland and Phyllis Pope was Alemander Bland who was born on October 21, 1817 and died December 4, 1897. He married on July 30, 1840, Margaret Bourne who was herself born on August 31, 1819. Alemander and Margaret appear by census records quoted by Mrs. James to have had three sons (twelfth generation): Charles, born September 30, 1841; John, born March 23, 1845; and Alexander, born in 1842 or 1843. John died young. Charles was killed in the Civil War, unmarried. Alexander was Jessamine James' grandfather. Alexander served in the Civil War, enlisting September 3, 1861 at Garrard County, Kentucky, and mustered into service October 28, 1861 at Camp Dick Robinson, Kentucky, as a private of Company R, 1st Kentucky Cavalry. He was discharged at Louisville, still a private, on March 24, 1865, about a month before hostilities between north and south ended.

Alexander went straight home and married 19-year old Mary Alford on May 29, 1865. On his marriage certificate, Alexander was identified by occupation as a farmer. The census of 1870 shows Alexander and Mary as having two (thirteenth generation) children: James William, aged 4; and Alice, aged 2.

James William Bland was born May 8, 1866 and died October 7, 1940. He married, on December 12, 1893, in Fayette County, Kentucky, Lexington Cora Weston Curd, who was born August 20, 1877 and died May 27, 1951. James William Bland and his wife moved to Tucson, Arizona, where both died. They are buried at Inglewood, California. They were the parents of two daughters (fourteenth generation) including Eunice Cora Bland (1897-1963) and May Jessamine Bland (July 5, 1899-still living) who

married Roland James. Eunice Bland did not marry, and Jessamine Bland James and her husband had no children.[1]

This concludes information known to this author about the descendants of James Bland (eighth generation) through his son Benjamin Bland, and his grandson Charles Bland, who married Phyllis Pope.

Arthur Bland: Ninth Generation

The second known son of James Bland (eighth generation) and his wife Mary _____ Gwatkins was Arthur Bland[2] (ninth generation). Very little is known of Arthur or of his family. It is certain, by the wording of his father's deed of April 28, 1746, that Arthur was the youngest son, and the same deed would make it appear reasonably certain that Arthur was already married and had children by 1746. If so, he must have been born soon after his older brother Benjamin, perhaps in 1725 or 1726. The last recorded trace of Arthur was in 1763.[3] Arthur married Mary ____ but nothing is known of her parentage. Further, Arthur had a son David Bland,[4] who by 1774 held a substantial amount of property originally deeded by James Bland (seventh generation) in his will of 1708. David would have been tenth generation, and was not an

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1 Jessamine Bland James to Charles L. Bland, November 28, 1980 and August 23, 1981. Cf. James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 38-41.

2 The source of Arthur's name is uncertain but it has already been noted that there was an Arthur Bland in St. Mary's County, Maryland in 1710. Cf. p. 252.

3 Dawson Notes, citing Fauquier Order Book 1756-1815.

4 Arthur Bland's parentage of David Bland is proved by an entry in the Prince William County Order Book, 1759-1761, page 153, June 26, 1760, in which Arthur is appointed David's guardian.

adult in 1760.[1] Arthur Bland also had a daughter Sithie, who married John Currie, and possibly a son Allen (C.1764-1814) who married Susan _____.[2]

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1 Dawson Notes, citing the Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 20, p. 285.

2 Prince William Deed Book T, May 3, 1779, p. 534. Another transaction, Prince William Deed Book Y, March 25, 1796, involves David Bland and is witnessed by Allen Bland, who may have been a son of Arthur (ninth generation). One source shows Allen Bland, born about 1764 in Prince William County, Virginia, who died in 1814. His wife Susan _____ was still living in 1820. It is possible that they had children, John, born in 1782, and Hannah, born in 1796. Source, Genealogical Helper, Query 9809, date uncertain, about 1969-70.

CHAPTER X

THE FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATION

The Founder

The third child of James Bland (seventh generation) was John Bland (eighth generation). Distinctly, John was the third eldest son, for in his father's will he was left land amounting to 125 acres, "when he shall arrive at the age of twenty-one."[1] Since he had two brothers older than himself, who were executors to John's will, and since, unlike his older brothers, he was entrusted with no responsibilities for tuition and care of the minor children, it is apparent that he was about to reach his majority but had not yet done so, when his father died. Hence, the estimation for his birthdate of 1688, which is sufficient for working purposes. An inventory of John's estate is entered in Prince William records on June 7, 1762,[2] indicating that he died shortly before that time. Thus, reasonable working dates would be 1688-1762 for John Bland (eighth generation).

Unlike his brothers William and James, John does not appear to have participated in the early acquisition of family property. The rent rolls of Overwharton Parish, Stafford County in 1723, show John in possession of the same 125 acres granted him by his father in 1708.[3]

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1 Will of James Bland, December 22, 1708. Cf. p. 261, note 1.

2 Prince William County Deed Book I, June 7, 1762, p. 291. John's will is missing.

3 King, Registers of Overwharton Parish, p. 146.

By 1738, he is shown in possession of the same land.[1] Upon the settlement of his elder brother William's estate, John may have received 100 acres of land that William had acquired in 1742;[2] however, as subsequent discussion of these 100 acres will show, that is a highly problematical assumption. Although John may have acquired other land, I have been unable to locate records to substantiate such acquisitions.

John served as a voter with his brothers William, James and Robert for the House of Burgesses, for Prince William County, in 1741.[3] Other traces of John appear in 1743, 1749/1750, 1760 and 1761.

John married a woman named Patience, but when he married her is uncertain.[4] The names of the children of John and Patience are uncerta As indicated earlier, there was a Patience Bland who in 1753, according to information from one correspondent, married John Smith of Somerset County, Maryland, but later moved to Prince William County, Virginia, where a son Joshua was born in 1760.[5] No specific evidence is available to indicate Patience's relationship to any of the four eighth generation brothers, although her probable age, if she was married in 1753, would indicate the probability that she was a daughter of one of them. Her name, given John's marriage to a woman named Patience, would suggest she was John's daughter, but that might be problematical, for Patience _____ might have been John Bland's second wife. This is

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1 Dawson Notes, no citation.

2 Prince William County Deed Book T, pp. 48, 235, March 27, 1776.

3 Dawson Notes, citing Boogher.

4 John had a sister named Patience and may also have had a daughter by the same name. Cf. discussion following and p. 267, note 1.

5 Ibid.

deduced by the fact that Jesse Bland (ninth generation), the single proven child of John Bland (eighth generation) was no more than fifteen in 1767,[1] indicating that he would have had to be born about 1752, and thus was the son of a woman who was born probably no later than about 1707 and who would be about twenty years younger than John (eighth generation). Thus, there is the possibility, as with the older brothers, that John Bland married twice.

Of the son Jesse, not much is known. A Jesse Bland, born in Prince William County, Virginia, served in the American Revolution, enlisting in Greenbrier County in 1776 and serving until 1779. He is said to have died April 15, 1842.[2]

John Bland (Ninth Generation)

A third possible child of John Bland (eighth generation) was John Bland. Calculations of his birth, derived from the approximate times of his marriage, suggest that John was born no later than about 1725. He died in Nelson County, Kentucky, where his will was made October 5, 1795, and proved December 8, 1795. Thus, the dates of John Bland (ninth generation) are C.1725-1795.

John Bland (ninth generation) was a trooper in the Prince William County Militia in 1756 and in 1766, signed the petition of "The

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1 For information about Jesse, I have relied upon three letters: Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981; Marian Daniels to Albert Hunter, May 30, 1981; and Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 19, 1981. Jesse was bound out as an apprentice to John Thorne in 1767, indicating he was a minor, no older than 15. He was bound to Robert Wickliffe before Thorne. Boys began apprenticeships usually at age 14.

2 Dawson Notes, citing Johnston, West Virginia in the Revolution, p. 32.

Patriots of the Northern Neck of Virginia," drawn up by Richard Henry Lee, following enactment of the Stamp Act Crisis.[1]

John Bland's parentage was no doubt clearer to him than to present-day researchers. Older writers such as Caroline Beall Price, assumed as a matter of course that he was the son of John Bland (eighth generation). The primary reason for the assumption is that many entries in the Prince William County records refer to John Bland (ninth generation) as Junior, or the younger, while John Bland (eighth generation) is referred to as Senior.[2] Also, one should note that the 1767 entry for Jesse Bland's apprenticeship refers to his father as John Bland "deceased."[3] In fairness, however, one must note that such annotations are not conclusive, for designations of Junior and Senior often distinguished uncles from nephews, as well as fathers from sons. One must also note that an entry in the Prince William County records on July 10, 1762, at least a month after the death of John Bland (eighth generation) refers to John Bland (ninth generation) as John Bland Jr.[4] Designations of Junior and Senior do not then have evidentiary strength to prove a father-son relationship.

As indicated earlier, some researchers have expressed the belief that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland (eight

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1 UMB-I, citing Meade, Vol. II, p. 434, and Ruth Thayer Ravenscroft, Royal and Magna Charter: The Baronial Ancestry of Colonel George Read of Virginia (1959), pp. 104-105. Ravenscroft's information about John Bland is a more or less verbatim transcription from Caroline Beall Price, Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928), pp. 48-54. Cf. Dawson Notes, citing Lyingstett, Vol. 2, p. 38, and Vol. 10, p. 47.

2 See Dawson Notes, citing Vestry Book for Dettingen Parish, Prince William County, 1759-1769, and The Virginia Genealogist, Vol. 21, p. 1[illegible].

3 Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981.

4 Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 11, 1981, citing Prince William County Order Book 1761-1769, July 10, 1762, case on p. 234.

generation) and his wife Catherine Key.[1] The chief proponent of this belief is Mrs. Roy (Marian) Daniels, of San Benito, Texas, a very careful, articulate and strong-minded researcher, as well as, I might add, a delightful correspondent. In various communications to this author as well as others, Mrs. Daniels has outlined the following reasons for her belief (for she is careful to say she has no conclusive proof) that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland (eighth generation):

1. It is unlikely that John Bland (ninth generation) would have had a brother Jesse born no later than 1752, when John was born about 1725.[2]

2. Neither John Bland (ninth generation) nor any of his descendants known to Mrs. Daniels named a daughter after Patience, who would have been John's mother, if he was the son of John Bland (eighth generation).

3. In the estate of John Bland (eighth generation), available records indicate that his executrix was Patience Bland, his wife, and that nephews Benjamin Bland and Edward Gwatkins served as witnesses. The absence of John Bland (ninth generation) from the administration of John Bland's (eighth generation) estate, indicates that there was no father-son relationship.

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1 Cf. p. 271, note 2, and p. 273, note 4.

2 Cf. p. 419, note 1.

4. On March 27, 1776, John Bland deeded to his son Osborne 100 acres that had formerly been part of a 312 acre grant to William Bland (eighth generation) made in 1742.[1]

As Mrs. Daniels freely acknowledges, these arguments do not sew up her case, and I believe there are reasonable countervailing arguments for each of her points.

First, regarding Mrs. Daniels' points one and two, her conclusions could be negated if John Bland (eighth generation) had married twice, thus making Patience _____ his second wife. John and Jesse (ninth generation) would likely have been half-brothers. One must recall that the structure of evidence points to an earlier marriage by William Bland (eighth generation) before his marriage to Catherine Key.[2] Information regarding the wives and children of James and John Bland

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1 Cf. p. 271, note 2, and Marian Daniels to Albert Hunter, October 1980. Since the 1776 transaction was specific about the acreage of the total grant, Mrs. Daniels searched the Northern Neck Land Grants and found only the November 30, 1742 grant to William Bland for 312 acres, which reads as follows: "Land Grants Northern Neck No. F-28: William Bland of Prince William County. On the crooked branch joyning to the land of Mansford Arrington and Morris Veale and bounded by a survey thereof made by Mr. George Byrn; Beginning at "A" a box oak standing on the west side of the road corner to the said Bland's other tract extening thence E 45 p to "B" a white oak by a branch thence S 7 deg V 140 to "C" three red oak saplings on a ridge, thence S 20 deg E 56 p to "D" a red oak near a road thence S 50 deg W 76 p to "E" a red oak near the line of Morris Veale, thence S 15 deg E 132 p to "F" a red oak and a small white oak on a ridge, thence N 67 deg W 102 p to "G" a box oak on a point, thence N 52 deg W 58 p to "H" a red oak sapling, thence N 60 deg W 94 p to "I" a white oak near a fork of a branch N 16 deg E 180 p to "K" a white oak corner to said Bland then with his line N 29 deg E 200 p to beginning. Yearly and every year on the feast day of St. Michael the Archangel, 1 shilling sterling for every 50 acres. 30 day of November 1742."

2 Cf. pp. 274-275.

(eighth generation) is so sketchy that it is not possible to definitely reach a similar conclusion for them. The reader should remember that in cases such as James Bland (seventh generation) and John Bland (eighth generation), wives mentioned in their estates or wills were their wives only at the time of their death. But I hasten to add that the assumption of a prior marriage by John Bland (eighth generation) is speculative. It is possible, but not likely, that John married about 1724, at about age 36, to Patience, a woman who, if no older than 15 or 16, between 1725 and 1752 could reasonably have given birth to John and Jesse. Finally, it is germane to this discussion that although John Bland (ninth generation) named no child after a brother Jesse, John's son Osborne (tenth generation) did have a son Jesse.[1]

As to Mrs. Daniels' reasoning that John or his descendants did not name a child Patience, this argument hasn't much strength. First, it might also have been logical for John to name a daughter Patience, in honor of Aunt Patience, whether he was the son of William or John Bland, but he didn't.[2] Also, and this to me is a more conclusive rejection of the argument, if John was the son of William, he would almost certainly have had to be a son of Catherine Key, yet he named neither of his four daughters Catherine.

The assumption that John Bland (ninth generation) was the son of William Bland because he did not witness or serve as executor in the estate of John Bland, is interesting but inconclusive. By the same reasoning, one might argue, in isolation from other facts, that Benjamin Bland and Edward Gwatkins were sons of John Bland (eight generation). In that instance, of course, contrary evidence is

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1 Betty Turpin to Charles Bland, December 30, 1981.

2 Neither did John name any children after his aunts Ellen, Alice or Hannah. These speculations are made further opaque because they are layered upon a further speculation that John Bland (eighth generation) was a son of James Bland by a wife who was antecedent to Margaret, Cf. pp. 261-262.

available. The key documents in this argument, the actual wills of William and John Bland (eighth generation) are missing.

William's will might also clear up the argument about the 100 acre fraction of William Bland's 312 acre grant. This overlap of property is, according to Mrs. Daniels, "my ace card in the argument that John was the son of William and Catherine Key Bland."[1] Yet Mrs. Daniels acknowledges that this evidence itself does not prove the parent-son relationship between William and John, and other information affirms this. There is evidence, for example, that some of the property held by William, John and Robert Bland (eighth generation) passed into the hands of James Bland (eighth generation) and eventually into the hands of James' grandson David (tenth generation) who conveyed it to one Savage in 1774.[2] Why then, in such a mixture of land, could it not be possible that a portion of the 312 acres William acquired in 1742, was passed on to his brother John after his death? Perhaps this interpretation, which admittedly rests upon hypothetical terms of a will that has been lost, would explain a juxtaposition of entries in the Prince William Records concerning a suit between "John Bland Jr. and James Bland." One entry records the suit and is dated October 1761. The second entry dismisses the suit and is dated July 10, 1762, just after the death of John Bland (eighth generation). Undoubtedly, the two principals are John Bland (ninth generation, C.1725-1795) and James Bland (ninth generation, C.1707-1774), either half-brothers or cousins.

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1 Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 19, 1981.

2 Prince William Deed Book U, September 13, 1774, pp. 70-71.

Details of this suit are not known to this author.[1] It is known, however, that in July and August 1761, James Bland of New Hanover County, North Carolina (C.1707-1774) returned to Prince William County to divest himself of some 1,128 acres of land he must have possessed as executor to his father William Bland's estate.[2] Further, the only extant entry about administration of the estate of John Bland (eighth generation) was dated June 7, 1762.[3] One cannot deny the strong possibility that there is a relationship between all these dates, though I am at a loss to form a conclusion.

What it all boils down to is that neither the traditionalists nor Mrs. Daniels have sufficient information or evidence to negate the beliefs of the other. In absence of such conclusive proof, I have chosen to assume that John Bland (ninth generation in either case) was the son of John Bland (eighth generation), rather than the son of William Bland and Catherine Key. I say this, acknowledging freely that Mrs. Daniels has raised some very formidable arguments against such a conclusion, in what has been one of the most interesting evidentiary questions to arise in this book.

Whatever his parentage, there is a general consensus that John Bland (ninth generation) married Margaret Osborne, a daughter of Thomas Osborne, who died in Prince William County in 1737. As stated earlier,[4] William Bland (eighth generation) supported Thomas Osborne's bid for a contested election in Prince William County. Margaret had at least

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1 This information was supplied the author by Marian Daniels in a letter dated December 11, 1981.

2 Cf. p. 279, note 2.

3 Cf. p. 417, note 2.

4 Cf. p. 271, note 4.

two other sisters, known to this author: Nancy Osborne, who married John Randolph (C.1720-1789),[1] and Mary Osborne who married William Hendley. Margaret married John Bland about 1746.[2]

The Move to Kentucky

One assumes that Margaret inherited a sizeable portion of property from her father's estate,[3] for on August 1, 1780, John and Margaret sold an unspecified amount of land for 6000 pounds sterling.[4] In 1781, it appears that John, with Margaret and their children and grandchildren joined other families for a move to then Jefferson County, Kentucky. This was the largest movement to Kentucky of the Blands that has been recorded, and also probably the earliest. In those days there were summer and winter routes from Virginia to Kentucky. The summer route was overland and it entailed a trip southwest to the valleys of the Allegheny Mountains at the southwest tip of Virginia, and then into Kentucky at the Cumberland Gap or one of the other mountain passes.

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1 Tressie Westhers to Charles Bland, November 21, 1981.

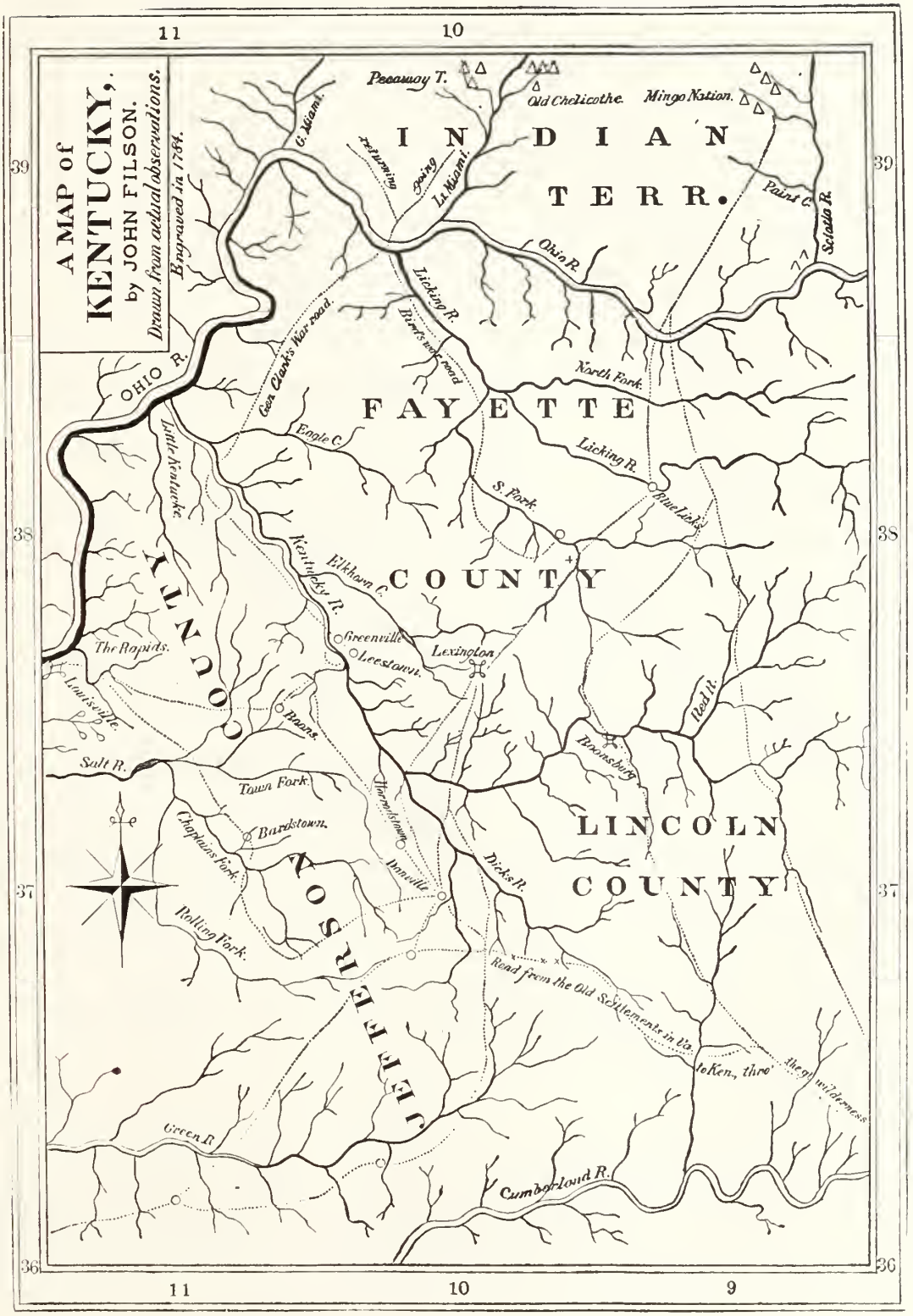
2 Blanche Randolph to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981. A fourth sister, Prudence, may have died unmarried; cf. Ravenscroft, p. 107.

3 On July 23, 1751, Cuthbert Harrison, who had married the widow of Thomas Osborne, sold land in Prince William that had been deeded by Osborne to his daughter Margaret. Blanche Randolph to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981, citing Prince William Deed Book T, pp. 70-77. This was undoubtedly at least part of the source of a petition signed by many of the children of John and Margaret, presumably against the estate of Cuthbert Harrison, in Nelson County, Kentucky, November 24, 1812. Mrs. Daniels states: "It appears that the Blands were mistaking the Cuthbert Harrison, of Nelson County, Kentucky, for the son of Cuthbert Harrison of Prince William, Virginia, who married the wife of Thomas Osborne, father of their mother Margaret Osborne. There are records in Prince William County to show that the Osborne girls' stepfather paid them each for their share of their father's estate." Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981.

4 Ravenscroft, pp. 104-107.

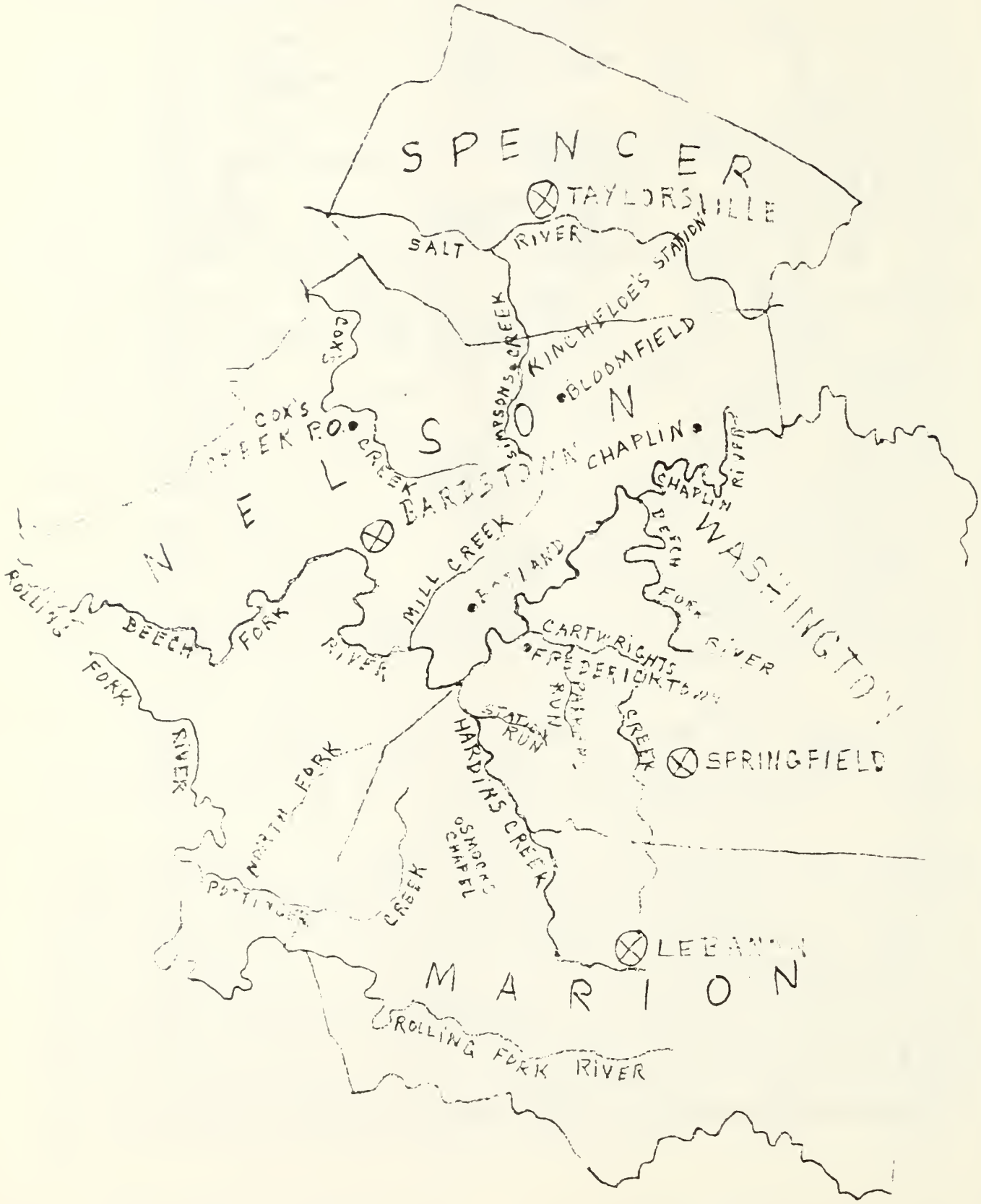
MAP XIV

JOHN FILSON'S KENTUCKY ABOUT 1784



MAP XV

AREA OF NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY C.1782



Courtesy: Betty Turpin,
Denver, Colorado.

From there, settlers would travel along the Wilderness Road into central and western Kentucky. By the time settlers arrived at a western location such as Jefferson County, the Wilderness Road would have narrowed into trails or foot paths that were characteristically terrible, often littered with stumps and rocks. Streams and rivers were crossed by fords and ferries for there were no bridges. The optimum time for overland travel was summer or fall. Pioneers who were foolish enough to travel overland during winter invited disaster. The winter route was usually by boat, and usually involved overland travel to what is present day Pittsburgh where the pioneers could catch a flat boat down the Ohio River.

This river route was a distance of some 1,100 miles from Virginia to Pittsburgh, and then downriver to present day Louisville, but could be made in about two weeks, depending upon one's departure point from Virginia and one's destination along the Ohio River. These trips were most often made during winter, when the river was up and the flatboats could avoid the shoals, rocks and snags that were hazards during shallow periods and the boats could float over the falls along the way with relative safety.[1] It appears from the following that the Bland family must have traveled during the winter months of 1781-1782:

> ...James Harrod made a clearing and put up the fort... 1/2 mile north of Gethsemane, Nelson County, Kentucky in 1781. One of his sisters accompanied the surveying

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[1] Descriptions of the Virginia-Kentucky travel routes were derived from Boynton Merrill Jr., Jefferson's Nephews (1976), pp. 97-98. Merrill described the journey of the Lewis family in 1807-1808, a quarter century after the Blands made their journey.

> party to the creek, coming over the "Wilderness Road" on one of the pack horses. The remainder of the Garrison (Willets, Crafts, Millers, Blands, ect.) all came down together from the upper waters of the Ohio in a flat boat, and when it was safe, all took charge of their lands and erected the usual log cabins for dwellings.[1]

It is apparent that John and Margaret Bland traveled with a large contingent of other settlers to Kentucky and brought with them children and grandchildren, some of whom did not survive the settlement year in 1781-1782.

John Bland died in 1795. Inasmuch as his will is critical in delineating his children as well as his property upon his death, critical portions of it are quoted:

> In the name of God, Amen, this Fifth Day of October in the year of our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Ninety-Five, I, John Bland, of the County of Nelson and State of Kentucky, being in a weak and low state of health but of perfect mind and memory...do constitute, make and ordain this to be my last will and testament.
>
> Item first, it is my will that Margaret, my dearly beloved wife, for her support during her natural life do inherit all my estate, both real and personal, moveable or immoveable, unless such moutys (moieties) as in this shall be hereafter mentioned to be given to my other heirs of my sd (said) estate and after her death mention to be made how to divide the same equally agreeable to my Will and pleasure.
>
> Item secondly...that my eldest son Osburn Bland* be paid twenty pounds cash out of my sd estate at the decease of my dearly beloved wife Margaret.

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[1] Samuel P. Pottinger to Clara B. Beauchamp, March 4, 1906:" 'William (Bland) ... in 1784 ... landed with his parents at Louisville and settled near Bloomfield, Nelson Co.' This agrees with another account I have which states that John Bland moved his family ... down the Ohio river to the falls and then traveled overland to Nelson Co., where he settled in 1784." Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981, citing as a source, Perrin, Biographical Sketches, History of Kentucky (1887). Nelson County was formed from Jefferson in 1784.

* This "Osburn" was undoubtedly named for his mother Margaret Osborne and in the following pages I shall spell his name Osborne.

Item thirdly...that my eldest daughter, Prudence Smith, wife to Fleming Smith, be paid five pounds specia in like manner as above...

Item fourthly...that my son Samuel Bland be paid thirty pounds specia in like manner as above specified.

Item fifthly...that my son John Bland shall have a conveyance of a part of a tract of land I purchased of James Davis...

Item sixthly...that my two sons, Isaac and Elijah Bland, shall have the remaining part of the land I now hold on the waters of Simpson's Creek at the decease of my... wife Margaret, also one negroe each of them is to have of the increase of my negroe woman Lucy...

Item seventhly...that the remaining part of my moveable estate together with my real estate is to be equally divided among six children in hand, Mildred Hughes, Daniel Bland, William Bland, John Bland, Frances Hughes and Molly Randolph.

Item eighthly...that Nancy Bland, daughter to Henry Bland, is to have twenty pounds specia which is to come out of Mildred Hughes part of my estate.

Item ninthly...that my dearly beloved wife Margaret, together with Daniel and John Bland, my two sons, be my executors, whom I do constitute and appoint of this my last will and testament...in witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal the day and date first written.

Signed, Sealed and
Delivered in Presence
of Us. John Bland

Anthony Thomson
Henry Jinkinson
Elizabeth Jinkinson

At a court held for Nelson County on Thursday, the 8th day of December, 1795...This last will and testament of John Bland dec'd was proved...[1]

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[1] Will of John Bland, Nelson County, Kentucky Will Book A, p. 166, October 5, 1795. Xerox of original supplied the author by Marian Daniels. True copy also supplied by Betty Turpin, Colorado Springs, Colorado, cf. letter December 10, 1981.

At a property inventory dated December 28, 1795, John Bland's estate was inventoried and shown to have an approximate value of 710 pounds sterling, including nine slaves valued at 485 pounds.[1]

It appears then that John Bland (ninth generation) and Margaret Osborne had a family of at least eleven children (tenth generation). Assuming that John mentioned them in his will according to their order of birth, they were: Osborne Bland; Prudence Bland; Samuel Bland; John Bland; Isaac Bland; Elijah Bland; Mildred Bland; Daniel Bland; William Bland; Frances Bland; Mary or Molly Bland; and Henry Bland. For convenience in narrative continuity, I will discuss information available about the four daughters first, and then discuss the sons.

The Daughters of John Bland and Margaret Osborne

If John Bland named his surviving children by order of birth in his will of 1795, Prudence Bland (tenth generation) would be his eldest daughter and second child. Prudence was born in 1750 and died in 1815.[2] She married Fleming Smith. Although her father left her a

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1 As noted in the inventory, these slaves were named Jacob, Henry, Lucy and an unnamed child, Fanny, Thomas, Simon, Anny and Nan. An entry in the Nelson County Court Book shows that John's heirs later gave Jacob his freedom. Another entry shows that Jacob in turn bought the freedom of his daughters, America "Ary" and Fanny. Ary married David Cousins in Nelson County, January 18, 1826, and Fanny married Edmund Duncan, November 3, 1832, in Nelson County. Some researchers have mistaken this freed black, Jacob Bland, for the Jacob Bland (1779-1839, twelfth generation) who moved from Chatham County, North Carolina, to Greene County, Indiana during the 1820's. Cf. pp. 323 ff. Per Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 11, 1981, citing Nelson County, Kentucky Order Book, September 9, 1805: "...John Hughes...(et al)...setting at liberty, negroe Jacob, who belonged to John Bland, dec'd..."

2 Prudence Bland Smith's grave stone indicates that she was 65 years old when she died in 1815. Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, November 19 1981.

bequest, her descendants believe she was never in Nelson County, Kentucky, indicating that she married Smith prior to the Bland family's departure for Kentucky. One estimate is that she married Smith in 1770. Some of her descendants had moved into Cumberland County, Kentucky by the early 1800's.[1]

Mildred Bland was the second daughter and seventh child of John Bland and Margaret Osborne. Her birthdate is uncertain, but she married William Hughes, Research on the family of William Hughes and Mildred Bland is extant, and William and Mildred were claimants and signatories in the 1812 action by the children of Margaret Osborne Bland against Cuthbert Harrison.[2]

Mildred's sister, Frances Bland, appears to have married a relation, either a brother or cousin, of William Hughes. She married John Hughes October 4, 1787. According to Marian Daniels, Frances died young.[3]

The tenth child and fourth daughter of John Bland and Margaret Osborne was Mary, or Molly Bland. Mary's date of birth is unknown. She married Thomas Randolph in Nelson County, Kentucky, January 4, 1791. They lived along Simpson's Creek in Washington County, Kentucky, after it was carved from Nelson County in 1792, and by 1800 they were in Muhlenberg County, Kentucky. In 1812, Thomas Randolph and Mary Bland

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1 Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981; and Daniels to Albert Hunter, May 24, 1980. Cf. Genealogical Helper Query 9809, dated 1969-1970, submitted by Merritt Page, Green City, Missouri.

2 Claim of Bland children against Cuthbert Harrison, November 24, 1812, published in the Nelson County Pioneer, Vol. 1, No. 2. Copy supplied the author by Betty Turpin. Cf. Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981. John B. Thomas, Jr. of Silver Spring, Maryland, claims descent from William Hughes and Mildred Bland; cf. letter to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981.

3 Cf. note 2 above.

left Kentucky and moved to White County, Illinois, where they died: Thomas in 1816, and Mary in 1822. Mrs. Marian Brown Daniels, who descends from Thomas Randolph and Mary, his wife, lists two children of their marriage: Elijah Randolph, who married twice; and Prudence Bland Randolph, who married William Cross probably in Gallatin County, Illinois.[1]

Osborne Bland (Tenth Generation)

Of the seven known sons of John Bland and Margaret Osborne, perhaps the best known is Osborne[2] Bland. Researchers in this line of the family who have examined John Bland's will of 1795 feel that Osborne, who is the first child listed, must have been the oldest child. Information previously discussed establishes the birth date of his sister Prudence, second mentioned in their father's will, at 1750, and this would make the estimated birthdate for Osborne at about 1748. Osborne was living in Monroe County, Kentucky in 1820, close to his son, Osborne Jr.[3] He may have traveled with Osborne Junior to Indiana in the 1820's, but this is less certain. My guess, from examination of Kentucky and Indiana records is that he did not move to Indiana, but died in Monroe County, Kentucky during the late 1820's, in which case he would have been about eighty when he died.

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1 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980; Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981; and Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981. According to Mrs. Daniels, William Cross and Prudence Randolph were the parents of Elizabeth Cross, who married Charles W. Brown. They were the parents of Charles Edmund Brown, who married Sarah Abigail Dunn. They were the parents of Marian Brown, who married Roy E. Daniels in Waco, Texas in 1950.

2 Osborne's name lends itself to various spellings. I use Osborne because earlier references I have seen to Thomas Osborne spell his name that way.

3 Index of the 1820 Kentucky Census.

As indicated previously, the family of John Bland (ninth generation), with several generations in tow, settled in 1781-1782 in Jefferson County, Kentucky, on land that would, with county divisions in 1784, become Nelson County.[1] Mrs. Betty Turpin, of Colorado Springs, Colorado, who has studied closely the Jefferson-Nelson County terrain of 1781-1791, believes that Osborne and his family lived at a place called Phillips Station during 1782-1784. In 1785, a tithable list shows him living west of a place called Hardin's Creek. In 1786, Osborne lived near his father and siblings along Simpson's Creek, and by 1788 and 1790 he was living along Pottinger Creek, a considerable distance to the south of Simpson's Creek. By 1795, when his father died, he was living in Washington County, which had been cut off from Nelson in 1792, on land which became part of Marion County when it was formed from what in 1792 was Nelson-Washington County. Thus, it appears that Osborne moved around frequently during the first decade of his life in Kentucky.

Osborne Bland married Lettice _____ probably about 1769, in Virginia. Lettice is a fairly common name in 18th century Virginia and I have never seen any credible evidence of her maiden name. Perhaps

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1 Cf. discussion on pp. 427 ff. In 1792, Washington County was formed from Nelson County, and Jefferson County was fragmented further to form Shelby County. These counties were later fragmented, but during 1784-1791, they were Nelson County, place of settlement for the family of John Bland (ninth generation).

the most plausible of two speculations is that her maiden name was Peake.[1] Another speculation, my own, was that she was Osborne's cousin Lettice Bland, minor child of James Bland (ninth generation, C.1707-1774) when James made his will in 1766.[2] Both of these speculations are only suggestive. Inasmuch as no one knows anything about Lettice before she married Osborne Bland, no one knows when she was born, but she was still living in 1812.[3] Osborne and Lettice Bland had five or six children, all probably born in Virginia, and all in company with Osborne, Lettice and their grandparents and aunts and uncles during the first year in Kentucky.

The Kinchloe Station Massacre

The immediate effect of the Kentucky Land Law passed by the Virginia Legislature in 1779, was a groundswell of immigration into Kentucky by white settlers. By 1781, about the time John Bland and his extended family moved to Kentucky, the massive waves of new immigrants had begun to stir the native tribes into reaction. What began as a series of small and relatively isolated ambushes or harassing actions, by the spring of 1782 had developed into substantial hostilities. In August 1782, 500 braves from several of the northwestern tribes surprised the settlers at a place called Bryant's Station and waged an intensive battle against them until driven back. A band of white men followed the Indians in their retreat northward

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1 Marian Daniels to Virginia Cowden, May 21, 1981. Mrs. Daniels states: "I sort of lean to her having been Lettice Peake, but mainly because it was mentioned that Humphrey Peake lived on the land or near the land that Osborne received from his father. One of the other Bland boys married a Sarah Peak in Kentucky, and Robert Peake was mentioned often in the court records with Osborn Sr."

2 See discussion on pp. 279-280.

3 Cf. p. 426, note 3 .

with the Indians turning at points, such as at a place called Blue Licks, to attack the white men, then retreating further north. It was during this line of retreat that some western bands of Shawnee Indians, who had been involved in the Bryant Station and Blue Lick engagements, fell upon Kinchloe Station, a cluster of six or seven white families, including the Blands, Davis', Randolphs, Harrisons and others. Kinchloe Station was located on Simpson's Creek south of the juncture of Salt River near what in time would become the border of Nelson and Spencer Counties. The Shawnees caught the settlers sleeping, burned the station (Kinchloe's later was called "Burnt Station") and killed or captured many of the inhabitants.[1]

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[1] Lewis Collins, Historical Sketches of Kentucky (1971), pp. 23-25, 481, 533. Thompson Randolph's recollections placed the raid as October 1, 1782. The Kinchloe Station is embedded in myth and was embroidered upon to a considerable extent over the years. The most reliable accounts came from old timers who were still living in the mid- to late 1800's and reported the story to local historians. Caroline Beall Price, in Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928), told the story as it was told her by Richard Beall, of Waxahachie, Texas, and C. M. Phillips, of Louisville, Kentucky, who descended perhaps from Osborne and Lettice's daughter Margaret, who married William Phillips. Specifics about the Blands are mentioned in Samuel Forrest Pottinger's letter to Clara B. Babb, March 4, 1906, who had an aunt "who knew everybody on the creek" and who told him of a widow Bland who lived nearby and who had a narrow escape from the Indians. Betty Turpin, in a letter to me December 30, 1981, cites particulars of the raid taken from Sarah B. Smith, Historic Nelson County (1933). Marian Daniels, in a letter to me dated December 3, 1981, calls attention to an oral account by Thompson Randolph to his son, William Bayliss, which was recorded in a booklet by Randolph's great-grandson, C. C. Coulson. Acerbic skeptic that she is, Mrs. Daniels is skeptical of all she reads: "I am sure these accounts have been passed down as family tradition and possibly started with wishful thinking." Daniels to Charles Bland, January 13, 1982. I commend Mrs. Daniels' caution to all who read this colorful story.

As the story goes, the Shawnee swarmed around the station between midnight and daybreak, broke down the gates, and forced their way into the fort's interior. The inhabitants were overpowered, killed or captured. Among them were Osborne and Lettice Bland and their children, as well as some of their relations. Thompson Randolph claimed to be fighting in a hand-to-hand situation, when his wife, who was loading his rifle with one hand while holding a baby with the other, was struck and killed, as was the baby. Randolph claimed to have retreated with another child where he eluded detection, in a hay-loft that handily escaped the Indians' torch. Osborne Bland, Thompson Randolph's cousin, killed the son of an Indian chief and after running out of ammunition, clubbed his empty rifle and bashed the Indians right and left. If the stories, as they merge, are to be believed, Osborne was with his wife and two children when the raid occurred. A baby was killed before Osborne's and Lettice's eyes, and a young son, Jesse, was said to have been captured.[1] Osborne and Lettice were captured near a box of paints that had belonged to the chief's son, whom Osborne allegedly killed. They were both condemned to be burned alive, and were taken prisoner with Osborne bound, and Lettice left to walk free.

As they began the march to the Indian village, Osborne urged Lettice to break away and leave him when she could. The opportunity came at night while the Indians were sleeping. Lettice crept away and her departure was not noticed until the Indians awakened next day.

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[1] Samuel Forrest Pottinger to Clara Beauchamp Babb, March 4, 1906. Jesse was described as "quite young" at the time of capture. Pottinger wrote: "It appears he returned many years later and was identified by a scar on his body." Also, note an earlier reference to a "Mos Bland," who was captured in the Kinchloe Raid. Cf. p. 357.

Meanwhile, Lettice, who had been walking in circles, had not gone far from the band of Indians. Fearing discovery, she insinuated herself into a hollow log and concealed herself well enough that the Indians passed by her. Having shaken the Indians, Lettice tried to walk back to the fort, but again walked in circles and ended up the first day of freedom back at the hollow log where she slept until she was chased out by a bear. Lettice, having escaped Indians and bears, now subsisted in the wilderness for seventeen days, eating "sour grapes and green walnuts," until presently she made her way back to Kinchloe's station. Arriving before the station's walls, her by then gaunt and nude body gave out and she fell into a dead faint. Sharp-eyed watchmen from the tower, no doubt a bit "techy" about bare chested people (Indian braves habitually dropped down when detected), thought she was an Indian. They trained their collective rifles on her and made ready to shoot if poor Lettice pulled herself to her feet. Fortunately, before she regained consciousness, a passing huntsman, being perceptive enough to tell the difference between a hostile Indian brave and a naked woman, gathered Lettice into his arms and carried her to nearby Lynn's Station, where she was nursed back to good health.[1]

Osborne, according to various accounts, was taken to Canada and later exchanged. He must have returned to Jefferson-Nelson County about a year later for as previously indicated, he was known to have lived at Phillips Station from 1782-1784. Lettice and Osborne were

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[1] According to C. M. Phillips, "...on the second day, Mrs. Bland escaped. For eighteen days she wandered through the woods without seeing a human face. She lived on sour grapes and green walnuts. When she was found, she was a walking skeleton and without clothes..."

sturdy souls, and were still kicking around in 1812, by which time, as Mr. C. M. Phillips put it, they had been "...for long years an object of awe and veneration."[1]

Even if one discounts the florid prose of this Victorian adventure tale, it must be noted that it has been retold too many times and by too many various persons to have been taken from whole cloth, and one must acknowledge that even in its most basic outlines, the memory of an intense life and death struggle, marked by the murder of an infant child and the death of neighbors and relatives, capture, death sentence and ultimate escape, must have left an indelible mark on the memory of Osborne and Lettice Bland, and it may have been one of those primal traumas in human life that forged their love and their lives into unbreakable bonds. One consequence might be the restless and frequent moves of Osborne and Lettice between 1782 and 1795. Also, one wonders if Lettice was rendered sterile during the raid,[2] for there appear to have been no children born to her after the Indian massacre, although there were five (six, if one counts the baby killed during the massacre), before the massacre.

If the children (who were eleventh generation) were born at normal intervals, the first would have been born about 1770, and the remaining five at two-year intervals. These are only calculations, but if true, the eldest child, Margaret, would have been born in 1770. She would have been followed by Sarah (1772), Osborne Jr. (1774), Elam

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1 Price, Ancestral Beginnings in America, quoted in Ravenscroft, p. 106.

2 Under the circumstances, especially if Osborne killed the chief's son, it would not have been unusual for the Shawnees to have raped, tortured, beaten, and perhaps stabbed Lettice.

(1776), and Jesse (1778). The unnamed child who was killed at Kinchloe would have been born in 1780. With these approximate birthdates in mind, it is appropriate to turn to a discussion of the children of Osborne and Lettice Bland.

The Daughters of Osborne Bland

The eldest daughter and child of Osborne Bland and Lettice was Margaret Bland (eleventh generation), who must have been born about 1770. Margaret was said by C. M. Phillips to have been present at the Kinchloe raid, though that may be questionable: she would have been about twelve years old at the time and it is doubtful that rampaging Indians would have spared her to tell the tale. Her approximate date of birth is calculated by the supposition of her father's birth, discussed earlier, and the date of her marriage to William Phillips in Nelson County, Kentucky on May 28, 1786. William Phillips and Margaret Bland probably settled down in Nelson County, but their county designation changed when Hardin was formed from Nelson in 1792. Hardin County records show William was a captain in the Kentucky militia in 1813. His wife, Margaret, is on record as a member of the Hardin's Creek Baptist church as late as 1826. Their children (twelfth generation) included: (1) William Phillips, who was born about 1787 and died before 1840. He married Malinda _____ and by her had a family of seven children. (2) George Phillips, who married Eudora Kendley August 29, 1815.[1] He was born also in 1787, and died after 1850. (3) Leticia Phillips, born March 11, 1797, and died June 15, 1846, in

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[1] Note an intermarriage between John Bland and Sally Kendley, p. 475.

Christian County, Kentucky. She married William M. Beall in 1814.[1] (4) Nancy Phillips, who married Gary Head in Washington County, February 9, 1829. (5) Margaret Phillips, who married Hamilton Cittler in Washington County, August 7 or 17, 1830. (6) Felix Phillips, born in 1807, still living in Marion County, Kentucky in 1850. (Marion County was organized from Washington in 1834. As previously stated, Washington was formed from Nelson in 1792.) Felix married Frances _____.

The second child of Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ was Sarah Bland, who married James Willett, in Nelson County, Kentucky, December 20, 21 or 27, 1790. I have no further information about Sarah.

The Sons of Osborne Bland

Of the sons of Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ I have no information about Elam Bland, and little about Jesse. Jesse would have been born about 1778, possibly named for his great uncle Jesse. As indicated previously,[2] legends of the Kinchloe Indian Massacre tell the story of a Jesse Bland, son of Osborne and Lettice _____, who was quite young at the time, being captured by the Indians, but returning much later to be identified by living relatives by a scar. A Jesse

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1 Information about the descendants of Margaret Bland and William Phillips was supplied by Betty Turpin in letters to Charles Bland, November 17, 1981 and November 30, 1981. Mrs. Turpin descends from Leticia (twelfth generation) as I believe does Caroline Beall Price, author of Ancestral Beginnings in America (1928).

2 Cf. p. 436.

TABLE XXVIII

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF JOHN BLAND OF STAFFORD-PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA: FIVE GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700) = (1) _____ about 1654.
(2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674.

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____ .

(8) John Bland (C. 1688-1762) = Patience _____.

(9-1)

*John Bland (C. 1725-1795)
married Margaret Osborne

(9-2)

*Jesse Bland (C. 1752-)

(10-1) Osborne Bland (C. 1748-1828), married Lettice _____.
(10-2) Prudence Bland (1750-1815), married Fleming Smith.
(10-3) Samuel Bland, married Mary Ann _____.
(10-4) John Bland, married Elizabeth Shewmate.
(10-5) Isaac Bland.
(10-6) Elijah Bland, married Elizabeth Duncan.
(10-7) Mildred Bland, married William Hughes.
(10-8) Daniel Bland, married Elizabeth Hughes.
(10-9) William Bland (1777-1862), married Sarah Peake.
(10-10) Frances Bland, married John Hughes.
(10-11) Mary (Molly) Bland, married Thomas Randolph.
(10-12) Henry Bland.

* Known children.

------- Assumed.

TABLE XXIX

THE FAMILY OF OSBORNE BLAND OF NELSON COUNTY, KENTUCKY: SIX GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____.

(8) John Bland (C. 1688-1762) = Patience _____.

(9) John Bland (C. 1725-1795) = Margaret Osborne _____, about 1746.

(10) Osborne Bland (C. 1748-C. 1828) = Lettice _____, about 1769.

(11-1) Margaret Bland (C. 1770-), married William Phillips.

(11-2) Sarah Bland (C. 1772-), married James Willet.

(11-3) Osborne Bland Jr. (C. 1774-1848), married (1) Patsy Donahoo; and (2) Sally Kent Andrews.

(12-1) John Bland (1800-1844).
(12-2) William Bland ( ).
(12-3) Lettice Bland (1804-).
(12-4) Eli Bland (1806-).
(12-5) Warren Bland (1811-1865).
(12-6) Jesse Bland (1812-).
(12-7) James Bland (1813-).
(12-8) Moses Bland (1820-1906).
(12-9) Hiram Bland (1825-1851).
(12-10) Lucinda Bland (1826-).

(11-4) Elam Bland (C. 1776-)

(11-5) Jesse Bland (C. 1778-)*, married Nancy Kirkpatrick.

* Jesse Bland was captured at the Kinchloe Station Massacre. An unnamed infant child of Osborne Bland and Lettice was killed.

------- Assumed.

Bland was in Christian County, Kentucky, in April 1811, identified as executor of the will of Joseph Mosely.[1] Most of the genealogical research of which I am aware has been focused upon Osborne Bland, who is distinguished from his father, I believe, by present-day researchers, as Osborne Junior.[2]

Osborne Bland Junior (Eleventh Generation)

By my rough calculations, Osborne Bland Jr. (eleventh generation), eldest son of Osborne and Lettice Bland, was born in Virginia about 1774. He moved with his parents to Kentucky in 1781-1782, and since the Kinchloe legends are silent about him, one must assume that he was safely away from the station when it was raided. Osborne Jr. married Patsy Donohoo, said by some researchers to have been a Catholic, on

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1 Virginia Cowden indicates that Jesse may have been in Cumberland County, Kentucky about 1800. Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981. Cf. Lela Adams, Bassett, Virginia, to Charles Bland (undated): "I am a descendant of James Bland and Margaret _____ thru their son William and Catherine Key Bland, their son John Bland and Margaret Osborne, their son Osborne Bland and Lettice _____ Bland, their son Jesse Bland and Nancy Kirkpatrick, their dau Malinda and Joseph Rutherford; their dau Mary Jane Rutherford and James Monroe Caldwell, their son George W. Caldwell and Theodoshia Dodd; their son James Frederick Caldwell and Martha Jane Marriott; to me Lela Caldwell."

2 Information about Osborne and Lettice's children is based upon a letter to the author from Betty Turpin, November 30, 1981. An abundant amount of additional information was made available to me about Osborne Jr. from Virginia Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana, and Albert Hunter, of State College, Pennsylvania. Mrs. Turpin indicated that Donna Crowe, of Muncie, Indiana listed Osborne Jr., Sarah Willett, Margaret Phillips, Elijah, Jesse, William, Daniel and a child killed by the Indians at Kinchloe. Marriage records were available for Osborne Jr., Sarah and Margaret. An Elijah Bland married Elizabeth Duncan, daughter of John Duncan, at Nelson or Shelby County, Kentucky, January 3, 1809. Whether this was Mrs. Crowe's Elijah is unknown to the author.

January 21, 1799. Patsy's age is unknown, but she had her last child about 1826, which would suggest a birth date of about 1784, meaning that she was probably 15 or 16 when she married Osborne.

Osborne Jr. was living in Monroe County, Kentucky near his father in 1820, but neither Osborne Senior or Junior were listed in the 1830 Kentucky census. An Osborne Bland did, however, turn up in Scott County, Indiana in 1830. It is the theory of Virginia Cowden, of Bloomington, Indiana, a descendant of Osborne Junior, that Osborne and Patsy left Kentucky after Osborne Senior died in the late 1820's. They were in Scott County, Indiana, visiting Charles Donahoo, Patsy's brother, when the census taker came along.[1]

It is not certain how long Osborne Junior and Patsy were in Scott County, but by 1838 they were in Greene County, Indiana, living in the Richland Township. Osborne died sometime during 1848, thus making his dates C.1774-1848. The date of Patsy Donahoo's death is uncertain, but she was dead by 1848, when just before his death, Osborne Junior married Sally Kent Andrews. Sally had previously been married to Alexander Andrews and had for years tried unsuccessfully to get a war pension based upon their marriage. Sally evidently was too much for old Osborne, who died within a week after their marriage. Sally dropped her Bland name, apparently thinking that a week-long marriage to a man in his seventies wasn't worth a pension. She reapplied for the pension

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1 Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

based upon her marriage to Andrews and got it, but when the pension board discovered her deception, it was revoked. Sally lived to almost one hundred, and according to Albert Hunter, tried repeatedly to regain her pension, but never succeeded.[1] So Sally Kent Andrews (reluctantly) Bland was only an interesting diversion in Osborne Junior's life. His family was made by his marriage to Patsy Donahoo, and of this union there were ten known children (twelfth generation).[2]

The first child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was John Bland, who was born about 1800. The date of his death is unknown. John was in Scott County, Indiana with his parents in 1830. He died before 1844, when his wife, "Jincy" or Mary Jane _____ remarried William Warren. Jincy was born about 1807 and was still living in Vigo County, Indiana in 1880. John Bland and Jincy _____ had six children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Mary, who was born in 1827 in Kentucky, and married John Herrington, June 15, 1845, in Greene County, Indiana.[3] (2) Martha Bland, who was born July 1, 1830, and died March 19, 1922. She married Hubbard Boys November 28, 1847 in Greene County, Indiana. She was living in Vigo County in 1880, and by the time of her

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1 Albert Hunter to William Graham Bland, March 21, 1981; and Hunter to Doris Bland Melia, November 3, 1979. According to Hunter, Sally Kent's first husband, Alexander Andrews, was the brother of Hunter's great, great grandmother, Ann Andrews, who was born in 1778 in North Carolina and died in Greene County, Indiana. Alexander Andrews married Sally Kent in 1814 and later in the year fought alongside Andy Jackson at the Battle of New Orleans. Andrews and Sally moved to Greene County, Indiana about 1825, and Andrews died there in 1840.

2 Information about the children of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo is taken from family group sheets and annotations supplied the author by Virginia Cowden.

3 They lived in Richland Township; cf. p. 453, note 1.

death had moved to Marshall in Clarke County, Indiana. (3) Elizabeth Bland was born in 1834. Nothing more is known to this writer about Elizabeth. (4) James Bland was born in 1836. The date of his death is uncertain; however, he married Lydia Fuller on January 19, 1858, in Greene County, Indiana. (5) John Bland was born in 1838, probably in Greene County, Indiana, but the date of his death is uncertain. He married Louisa Beasley October 3, 1861, in Greene County, Indiana. (6) Moses Bland was born in 1840. Nothing further is known of him.

The second known child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was William Bland. William's movements were somewhat erratic. The skeletal outline of information available about him suggests that he was born in Kentucky, but probably went to Indiana with his parents. He married Martha Fisher,[1] who was born in Virginia or Kentucky about 1814. Martha' birthdate would suggest that she and William did not get married until after the move to Indiana. In 1850, William was enumerated in the census for Shelby County, Illinois, but in 1860 was back in Greene County Indiana. At that time, Martha Fisher was not enumerated and is assumed to have been dead. Only the four younger children were living with William. In all, William Bland and Martha Fisher had a family of seven known children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Mary or Polly, who was born in 1836; (2) James, who was born in 1838; (3) Lucy or Lucinda Bland, who was born in 1839; (4) Austin (enumerated as Augustine in 1860) who was born in 1843 in Indiana. He was still living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. He married Mary A. Langford in Greene County

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1 Mrs. Cowden's information about William and his descendants is supplemented by Mr. Laverne Bland, of Sandoval, Illinois. Laverne Bland to Charles Bland, November 16, 1981.

Indiana, March 14, 1865. (5) Moses Bland, who was born in 1845, was still living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. Moses married Elizabeth Langford in Greene County, Indiana July 28, 1866.[1] (6) Elizabeth Bland born in 1847; and (7) Eli Bland born in 1849.

The third child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Lettice, or Letitia, who was born about 1804. Lettice was still living as late as 1851, when she made testimony germane to the trial of her younger brother, to be disucssed later. On June 10, 1836, Lettice married William Walker, who was born about 1815 and was killed by his brother-in-law, Hiram Bland, in 1850. William Walker and Lettice had the following children (thirteenth generation): (1) Mary or Polly, born in 1838; (2) John Westley Bland, born in 1840; (3) Jeremiah Bland, born in 1841; (4) Hardin Bland, born in 1845. Hardin married Elizabeth McHutchens January 17, 1867; (5) William Bland, born in 1848.

The fourth known child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Eli Bland, about whom very little is known. Eli was in Greene County, Indiana in 1838. He was born about 1806, but was living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1850. He married Sarah _____ who was born about 1811 in Kentucky. They had four known children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Warren Bland, born in 1835; (2) Jane Bland, born in 1838; (3) Lucinda Bland, born in 1840; and (4) Sarah Bland, born in 1847.

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[1] Ibid. According to Laverne Bland, an unbroken male line runs from John Bland (ninth generation) to Osborne (10); Osborne Junior (11); William (12); Moses (13); John William Bland (14), born in 1873, who married Priscilla Jane Bland; Vernon Virgil Bland (15), born in 1915, who married Esther Jewel Haney; Laverne Bland (16) born in 1942, who married Kay Scarborough; to Laverne Bland II (17), born in 1970.

The fifth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Warren Bland, who was born in 1811 and died February 19, 1865.[1] Warren was enumerated in 1860 in Greene County as aged 49, from Kentucky. According to Mrs. Cowden, Warren was the administrator of his father's estate. He married twice, first to Cynthia Bunch (1825-C.1856), possibly a sister of Lydia Bunch Shaver Bland, wife of James Bland, in Greene County, on July 12, 1840, and after her death, to Susan Carpenter on September 16, 1858. Whether Susan's maiden name was Carpenter is unknown.[2] She is enumerated with Warren in 1860, with a notation that she was born in Kentucky, and was aged 35.

By his marriage to Cynthia Bunch, Warren had seven children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Jesse P. Bland, who was born January 2 1843. He married Sarah Jane Boys on June 16, 1866. (2) Ella Bland, who was not enumerated in the 1860 census, was born in 1844. (3) Evan Bland, who was born in 1847, died January 6, 1912. He married Nancy J. Fox on October 10, 1867 in Greene County. (4) George W. Bland, born in 1848, married Harriet Walls. (5) James Bland was born in 1852. Nothing furthe is known about him. (6) Warren Bland was born in 1854. He married Martha Wilson in Greene County, Indiana on February 8, 1887. (7) John Bland was born in 1856. Nothing further is known about him.

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1 For Warren Bland, Mrs. Cowden appears to have relied upon information from Pam Jones, of Freelandsville, Indiana. Although I often have heard of Mrs. Jones, I have never had the opportunity of communicating with her.

2 A Malin Carpenter, possibly Susan's son, or a younger brother, was living in the household of Warren Bland in 1860.

The sixth child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Jesse Bland, who was born about 1812 and died sometime after 1880. He married Mary "Polly" Lawrence (1825-), in Greene County on January 24, 1841, and in 1860 was enumerated in the Richland township. By 1880, he was in Shelby County, Illinois. Jesse Bland and Mary "Polly" Lawrence had a family of twelve children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) James Wesley Bland, born in 1841 and possibly still living in Iowa in 1900. James Wesley married twice. The name of his first wife is unknown, as well as any children. Secondly, he married Nancy Todd on October 2, 1875. In the 1900 census of Fabens, Davis County, Iowa, there was listed a James W. Bland, who indicated he was born in October 1838 in Indiana. Living with him was a son, Mark F. Bland, born March 1876. Whether these two James W. Blands are the same is not known.[1] (2) Hiram Bland, born in 1843, married Sarah _____. He was living in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. (3) Warren Bland was born June 1846 in Greene County. On February 8, 1887, he married Martha S. Watson. (4) Eliza Bland was born in 1848 in Greene County. Nothing more is known about her. (5) Mary A. Bland was born in 1852. Nothing more is known of her. (6) Osborn Bland was born in 1853 and was in Shelby County, Illinois in 1880. He married Sarah _____ and nothing more is known of him. (7 and 8) The 1860 census shows daughters Elizabeth, age 5, and Milly, age 2. Mrs. Cowden does not list them on her family group sheet for Jesse Bland, and nothing more is known of them. (9-12) Mrs. Cowden lists four children born to Jesse Bland and Mary Lawrence after the 1860 census who were: Jesse, born in 1861;

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[1] Information about the James W. Bland of Iowa is found in Soundex Film 446924, Blands in Iowa, 1880-1900, Church of Latter Day Saints. Information supplied to the author by Albert Hunter.

Sarah, born in 1864; Priscilla, born in 1866; and Almidia,[1] born in 1871. Nothing further is known about these four children.

The seventh child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was James Bland, who was born in 1813. He was still living in 1880. James' date of death is unknown. Virginia Cowden reports the frustrating experience of visiting land that she knows was formerly owned by Osborne Bland Junior and finding it now converted into a cow pasture. The present owner indicated to her that some old houses on the property, possibly homes of Osborne and his children, had been torn down. In exploring the property, Mrs. Cowden found one tombstone fragment for James Bland, and believes it belonged to her twelfth generation ancestor, but it offered no clues about the date of his death. James married several times apparently during the 1870's, but the wife who bore him his children, Mrs. Cowden believes, was Lydia Bunch or Burch, widowed by a Shaver before she married James Bland. Lydia and James Bland were married December 18, 1836 in Greene County. In the 1860 census, James and Lydia (spelled Lidda by the census taker) were enumerated in Highland Township, Greene County. Lydia was listed as being born in North Carolina, and Mrs. Cowden indicates that the Bunch and Shaver families, along with the Walkers, came from North Carolina to Greene County, Indiana by way of Tennessee. James Bland and Lydia Bunch Shaver had a family of eleven children (thirteenth generation), including:

(1) William Bland, born in 1838, in Greene County, Indiana. By 1860, William was no longer in his parents' household. (2) Christopher Bland, who was born in 1840. In the 1860 census he was living with his

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[1] Spelling of this name is uncertain.

parents and enumerated as a farm laborer. He married Martha A. Boys in Greene County, Indiana on August 5, 1864, and later moved to Terre Haute, Indiana. (3) James W. Bland was born May 8, 1844, and died April 19, 1906. He lived his entire life in Greene County, Indiana. He married on January 1, 1872, Anna Nation. (4) Asa J. Bland was born in 1845, and later went to Little Rock, Arkansas. He married on March 8, 1866, Nancy Sullivan in Greene County, Indiana. (5) Lydia (enumerated in 1860 as Lidda M., aged 12) was born about 1846. Nothing further is known to this writer about her. (6) Martin Bland was born in 1848 in Greene County, Indiana. He married Laura McCutchen on June 7, 1883. This marriage was short-lived for Martin remarried October 24, 1886, although the name of his second wife was not listed by Mrs. Cowden. (7) Vina Bland, born probably in 1850 or 1851 (Mrs. Cowden says she was born July 25, 1855) in Greene County, Indiana. She died September 28, 1894, and married on January 17, 1874, Alexander J. Boys. (8) Sarah E. Bland, enumerated in 1860 as aged 7, was born in 1853 (Mrs. Cowden says she was born about 1857) in Greene County, Indiana. She was still living in 1900 in Clay County, Indiana. She married Abraham Bingham on May 5, 1879. She survived Bingham, and on January 3, 1890, married Nelson Anderson. (9) Joseph Bland, born in 1855 according to the 1860 census, is not noted by Mrs. Cowden. Nothing further is known of Joseph Bland. (10) Roland Bland (listed as Lolan in the 1860 census) was born in 1856 according to Mrs. Cowden. He died in Greene County, Indiana on September 6, 1930. On February 5, 1880, he married Elizabeth Bingham in Greene County. (11) Allen Bland was born January 1858 and died September 6, 1930.[1] He married Dora Kimbell in Greene County on December 5, 1880.

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[1] Assuming the accuracy of Mrs. Cowden's information, Roland and Allen Bland must have died at the same time and place.

The eighth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Moses Bland who, according to the 1900 census for Greene County, Indiana, was born January 1820, and died May 12, 1906, in Greene County. As a young man, Moses appears to have gone to Shelby County, Illinois where he married Milly Laurence on May 30, 1849. In 1850, however, he was enumerated in the Richland township of Greene County, Indiana.[1] Milly Laurence died before January 22, 1856, when Moses Bland married Jane Boys, who was born November 1, 1833 and died December 23, 1915. The only child of Moses Bland and Jane Boys on record is Nancy Anna (thirteenth generation), who was born November 18, 1866 and died February 19, 1916. She married Amos W. Flake[2] on January 28, 1882, in Greene County.

The ninth child of Osborne Bland and Patsy Donahoo was Hiram Bland, who was born in 1825 and was hung on June 13, 1851, after being sentenced for murder in the death of his brother-in-law, William Walker. Hiram Bland, whose age is adduced by census records, may have been born somewhat earlier. He married Rachel Boys on January 17, 1841. During the short term of their marriage, Hiram Bland and Rachel Boys had four children (thirteenth generation) including: (1) Elizabeth Bland, born about 1843, who married Andrew J. Burch, or Bunch, June 6, 1861, in Greene County; (2) Jackson Bland, born in 1845; (3) Nancy Bland, born in 1847, who on January 16, 1871 in Greene County, Indiana married James Bingham; (4) James, born in 1849.

The tenth and final child of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo was Lucinda Bland, who was born about 1826. On July 13, 1845, Lucinda married David Shaver. The 1850 census for Greene County

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1 Information about the 1850 Greene County Census indicates Moses, Richland Township, on both pp. 642 and 643.

2 Spelling uncertain.

indicated two children (thirteenth generation), including Frederick, born in 1847, and Osburn (Osborne) born in 1849. Whether this is the extent of children by Lucinda Bland and David Shaver is unknown. Mrs. Cowden noted in a margin that they might have moved to Kansas.

"My Grandpappy was Hung in Bloomfield"

Many correspondents have commented upon the fact that Osborne Bland Junior and his wife Patsy Donahoo and their children lived in close proximity to the Blands who moved to Greene County, Indiana from Chatham County, North Carolina.[1] Indeed, this close proximity is borne out by various census records which show these Blands and their in-laws living side by each for about ten households.[2] Map XIII, p. 342B-C, showing the position of Blands in Highland, Richland, Center and Jefferson Townships, also demonstrates how closely together these families lived, and is a marvelous commentary on extended family communications in those days. As proximity breeds warmth and solidarity, however, so also it breeds family conflict, which in the case of Osborne Bland Junior's children, ultimately brought tragedy.

It is rare that one is afforded a glimpse into the character and physical description of one's ancestors, but such a gem is found in Baber's history of Greene County. In discussing the execution of Hiram Bland, youngest son of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo, Baber wrote:

> One thing that no doubt contributed largely towards bringing about the death penalty in this case, was the turbulent character of the accused. He and several brothers were powerful men physically, and

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1 Cf. pp. 320-342.

2 Cf. p. 453 , note 1 .

> and when drinking were very quarrelsome and dangerous. When not under the influence of liquor, as a rule, they were peaceable.[1]

Several of the Blands who were in the Civil War passed down a physical type for Osborne Junior's sons: big, dark complexioned men with black eyes and hair.[2] The hostile nature of these brothers may be evidenced by Indiana Court records for 1838-1841,[3] which records a fighting incident involving Eli and Warren Bland against a fellow named Brennan. It seems that Warren and Eli ganged up on Brennan, spoiling for a fight with him, and in legal parlance, incited a riot at Bloomfield, Indiana on February 28, 1838.[4] In the trial that ensued, Osborne Bland Junior stood bond for his sons, who were each assessed small fines for their misconduct.

All of this foreshadowed the family tragedy that resulted in the death of William Walker in 1850, and the death by hanging of Hiram Bland on June 13, 1851.

Albert Hunter supplied the following from the Bloomington-Bedford Herald Times, January 25, 1970:[5]

"MY GRANDPAPPY WAS HUNG IN BLOOMFIELD"

> Bloomfield - Arthur Bennie stopped his automobile at the Ozarks Crossroads store. A lounger with a grey beard that reached almost to his belt buckle and which was amber colored around his mouth opening, ambled over and said, "Indiana, huh?"

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1 Uncle Jack Baber, Early History of Greene County, Indiana (Worthington: (1938), p. 40.

2 Letter, Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

3 Greene County Indiana Final Court Records, 1838-1841, pp. 52, 77. Cited in a letter from Albert Hunter to Doris Bland Melia, November 3, 1979.

4 Ibid.

5 Ibid. The incident described in the article about Bennie and the old greybeard happened in 1925, or thereabouts.

That was very evident because Bennie's 1913 Model T 3-door Ford had Indiana license plates, front and back.

"Where from in Indiana?" said the old greybeard.

"Linton," answered Bennie, "I'm from Linton."

"That anywhere near to Bloomfield?"

"About 12 miles," answered Bennie.

"Waal now," the amber stains in the grey beard parted, "my grandpappy was hung in Bloomfield..."

Greybeard said that his name was Bland, and that his grandpappy's name was Hiram.

As noted previously, Hiram Bland was the youngest son of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo. In 1850, he was living in Richland Township, Greene County, Indiana, where he was married to Rachel Boys, from Virginia. Hiram was listed as an illiterate farmer by the census taker in 1850. He and Rachel were parents of four small children.

Living nearby[1] was William Walker with his wife, Lettice Bland, and their family of five children.

Hiram Bland killed William Walker early in 1850 in what the court defined as murder. There were two views about the slaying. Both agree that Hiram was drunk as a coot. One version, however, had Hiram drawing a knife while arguing with Walker and stabbing him. The other version contended that Walker was chasing Hiram with a stick, when Hiram turned and stabbed him. In April 1851, according to Mrs. Cowden, who has read the trial minutes, Walker's wife (Hiram's older sister Lettice) changed her story and told the court that her husband had

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1 Warren Bland lived in house 602 in Richland Township in 1850. Hiram Bland was in house 603; Moses Bland in house 604; James Bland in house 605; William Walker lived in house 606. John Herrington and his wife, Mary Bland, daughter of John Bland and granddaughter of Osborne Junior, lived in 607. William Walker, aged 78, a farmer from Virginia, lived in 608, and Thomas M. Walker lived in 609. All very clannish.

brandished a stick at Hiram.[1] Records indicate that revenge was a motive, and that the killing took place during daylight. Hiram was found guilty of murder and sentenced to be hanged on November 15, 1850, but a few weeks before his death, he escaped and returned to his home where he eluded capture until January 1851. He had dug a tunnel from his house to a corn crib and when a visitor came to his house, he simply would creep into the tunnel until the coast was clear. After he was caught, he was brought before a judge in April 1851 and was sentenced to be hanged on April 25. Gentlemen and ladies from several counties gathered in the woods where the scaffold had been erected, to see Hiram off on his trip to eternity. According to a later account of the hanging, "about a third of the men were 'half shot' and the women were bubbling over with anxiety and excitement." Things got pretty close for Hiram. He was placed over the trap and a black hood was placed over his head, at which moment an old man came up to the scaffold and roared, "Hiram, you're a goner or I'll be damned." The old man had no sooner spoken these words than he had to eat them, for the exceedingly slow turning wheels of justice spared Hiram, who was taken off the scaffold and jailed, while the Supreme Court of Indiana reviewed his case. Hiram was finally hanged on June 13, 1851. It was said that another crowd gathered to see Hiram die (he had become the chief source of daytime entertainment in the area) and the sheriff who conducted the execution was said to have conducted himself in an exemplary manner.[2] Hiram's opinion about all this is not a matter of record!

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1 Virginia Cowden to Charles Bland, October 1, 1981.

2 Cf. p. 452, note 3, Hunter to Melia.

The Younger Sons of John Bland (Ninth Generation)

In addition to Osborne Bland, his eldest son, John Bland (ninth generation) mentioned six other sons in his will of 1795. Five of these were living at the time of John's will. One son, Henry, appears to have been dead when John made his will, for John left a small bequest to Nancy, "daughter to Henry Bland."[1] This Nancy Bland married Robert Webb in Nelson County on March 30, 1807.

Little is known by this author about most of the sons living in 1795, except for Osborne, whose descendants have already been discussed. In the claim against Cuthbert Harrison in 1812, Samuel Bland is named with a wife Mary Ann. Samuel himself was probably born in the 1750's. He was enumerated in Nelson County, Kentucky in 1810 as over 45. I have been unable to find any Kentucky record of Samuel's marriage, suggesting that he was married in Virginia, and perhaps had some of his family there before moving to Kentucky. Samuel's date of death is likewise unknown. No Samuel Bland was found in the 1850 Kentucky census, so perhaps he had died before that time. The shape of Samuel and Mary Ann Bland's family is equally difficult to determine, but there appear to have been at least three sons and four daughters. Two sons, Samuel and John, left wills that were on record in Nelson County, and provided, along with marriage records, some outline of the family of Samuel Bland (tenth generation).

Samuel Bland (eleventh generation) made his will in Nelson County October 15, 1830, and it was probated November 8, 1830. There is no

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[1] Will of John Bland, October 5, 1795, p. 430, and letter from Betty Turpin to Charles Bland, December 10, 1981.

clue to Samuel's age when he died. He named in his will brothers James and John, as well as sisters Milly Glass, Nelly Glass (Nelly was the Eleanor in the next paragraph), Prudence Bland and Nancy Bland. The executor of the will was a cousin, Isaac Bland.

John Bland, brother to Samuel, made his will March 11, 1835 and it was proved April 13, 1835. As his brother had, John mentioned possession of lands in Lewis County, Missouri. He mentioned sisters Nancy Bland, then married to John Bird, and sisters Eleanor and Milly Glass. His executor was an in-law, James Glass.

These two wills, in combination with marriage records in Nelson County, lead to the conclusion that these were the children of Samuel Bland (tenth generation). Among the daughters, Eleanor Bland (called Nelly by her brother Samuel) married David Glass on January 3 or August 10, 1810. They had at least one son, James Glass. Mildred Bland married James Glass on May 25, 1818. That marriage was witnessed by her siblings, James and Prudence Bland, and consent was given by James, suggesting that Mildred was still a minor in 1818. Nancy Bland may have married a cousin, David Bland, on September 24, 1823, thus retaining her maiden name as it appeared in her brother Samuel's will of 1830. By the time of her brother John's will, however, Nancy had married to John Bird.[1]

This configuration of Children of Samuel Bland (tenth generation) calls to mind another daughter of Samuel Bland, Peggy, or Margaret Bland, who married Moses Bland of Randolph County,[2] North Carolina. The reader will recall, from a previous discussion of this marriage,

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1 I could find no record of the marriage between Nancy Bland and John Bird.

2 Cf. p. 348.

that Moses and Peggy Bland had a daughter Elizabeth, and that Peggy died some time before 1807, when Moses Bland remarried. On December 1, 1828, the daughter, Elizabeth Bland, married Ambrose Knott. In standing bond for the marriage, Samuel Bland (who I believe was Samuel Bland, eleventh generation) indicated that he was the brother of Elizabeth's father, Moses Bland. The above information would indicate that Samuel Bland and Moses Bland, husband of Samuel's deceased sister Peggy, were in fact brothers-in-law. So the eleventh generation offspring of Samuel and Mary Ann Bland that emerges from this combination of documents consists of three sons, Samuel, John and James, and five daughters, Peggy or Margaret, Eleanor, Mildred, Nancy and Prudence, who appears to have married a cousin, James Bland, on September 28, 1825.

Little is known of John Bland (tenth generation), fourth mentioned in his father's will of 1795. It is probable that he married Elizabeth Shewmate or Shewmake on August 9, 1792.[1] The names of John and Elizabeth do not appear on the claim against Cuthbert Harrison in 1812, indicating that they were both dead by then, or had moved away. Marriage records for Nelson County suggest the following eleventh generation children for John Bland: John Bland, who married Hannah Lewellen on November 13, 1795. A father-son relationship between these two Johns is problematical, but several of the daughters of John Bland and Hannah Lewellen did have a John Bland stand bond as witness to their marriages, all of which occurred after 1812 when John Bland (tenth generation) appears to have been dead. This John (eleventh generation) could have been a son by a prior marriage.

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1 Ibid. The marriage was witnessed by William Hughes, a brother-in-law of John's.

Two sons of John Bland and Elizabeth Bland appear to have been James Bland, who may have been the cousin who married Prudence Bland, daughter of Samuel Bland, on September 28, 1825. Also, a Bryant Bland witnessed the marriages of several of John Bland's daughters and could have been a third eleventh generation son. A fourth son may have been Isaac Bland.

On July 11, 1826, Catherine Bland, daughter of John Bland, married Samuel Bland. Possibly, these two could have been cousins, Samuel being the eleventh generation son of Samuel Bland. The marriage occurred in Hardin County. On January 18, 1828, Eleanor Bland, daughter of John Bland, married William McMackin in Nelson County. The marriage was witnessed by Isaac Bland, who also stood bond. Three other marriages in Nelson County could have involved daughters of John Bland and Elizabeth Shewmate, or John Bland and Hannah Lewellen. They are: Lucinda Bland, daughter of John Bland, who married John Kenyon in Nelson County on May 14, 1834, with Bryant Bland standing bond. On February 8, 1836, Bryant Bland stood bond for Mildred Bland, daughter of John Bland, who married Joseph Bridewell in Nelson County. Finally, James Bland was bondsman for the marriage of Fanny Bland, daughter of John Bland, to James Glass. Other relationships between the Glass and Bland families would tend to confirm that these series of marriages involved persons one or two generations removed from John Bland and Elizabeth Thewmate.

Of Isaac Bland (tenth generation), nothing is known except that he appeared in the 1812 claim against Harrison, as a signatory, but

not in the document itself.[1] Elijah Bland (tenth generation) is named in the 1812 claim, and it appears that he married Elizabeth Duncan in Nelson County, Kentucky, on January 3, 1809. This must have been a second marriage for by 1809, Elijah would likely have been in his forties or fifties.

Little is known of Daniel Bland (tenth generation), eighth named child in John Bland's will of 1795. Daniel participated in the 1812 claim against Harrison. Daniel married Elizabeth Hughes on January 14, 1796. Their son John H. Bland (C.1801-1870), who was eleventh generation, married Mary Ann Creager (1805-1870) on January 4, 1820, in Hardin County. Mildred Bland, daughter of Daniel Bland, married David Stark in Hardin County on July 20, 1828. John H. Bland and Mary Creager had two daughters (twelfth generation): Elizabeth Bland, who married Nathan Van Meter in Hardin County, February 21, 1838; and Mary Ellen Bland, who married Henton Briscoe Van Meter on August 3, 1852.[2]

More extended information is known about William Bland (tenth generation) named ninth in John Bland's will. William was said to have been born in 1777 in Prince William County, Virginia.[3] In the early 1780's he moved to Kentucky with his parents and lived in Nelson County until 1831, when he moved to Hardin County and settled.

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1 The Nelson County Pioneer, Vol. I, No. 2. Note that Isaac may not have been in the document because he was dead. The signatory may have been his or another brother's son. I have speculated above that John Bland (tenth generation) had a son isaac, who may have signed as witness to the claim for his deceased parent.

2 Marshall Van Meter to Charles Bland, January 26, 1982.

3 Marian Daniels to Charles Bland, December 3, 1981, citing Perrin, Battle and Kniffin, Ed., Biographical Sketches, History of Kentucky (1887). Cf. UMB-I, p. 48A. Urilla Bland based her information on a copy of an article in the Louisville Courier Journal from many years back that was sent to Anna Thomas Donigan by Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, and sent by Mrs. Donigan to Robert Linn Bland.

on Nolin Creek. He died there in 1862, at age 85. William married Sarah Peake who was from Frankfort, Virginia, about 1800. I can find no other William Bland in the Nelson-Hardin records that match the description of William's age, and thus conclude that he had the following daughters:

Nancy Bland, who married Samuel Wilkinson in Nelson County, December 31, 1823. Mahalia Bland married John A. Raine in Hardin County on December 15, 1824. Mahalia Bland must have died sometime before August 21, 1841 when, in one of those cases where a man finds the Bland women entirely to his liking, or exercises limited imagination, John A. Raine married Mahalia's sister, Sarah A. Bland. Susannah Bland, daughter of William Bland, was married to Lewis Walker in Nelson County, March 8, 1825.

On February 9, 1831, Mildred Bland, daughter of William Bland, married Hayden Yates. On October 24, 1831, Lydia Bland, daughter of William Bland, married Leland Bland, possibly a cousin,[1] in Nelson County. Following William Bland's movement to Hardin County, the following marriages occurred: Katherine Bland married William Mount on January 14, 1833; Augustian Bland married Thomas C. Bland, February 8, 1834. Emily Bland married John Upton, January 23, 1837.

The only identifiable son of William Bland and Sarah Peak was Elijah H. Bland (eleventh generation), who was born December 15, 1814, in Nelson County. Elijah was said to have been the eleventh of fourteen children, so there were four children at least who remain unidentified.

Elijah was reared a farmer and "received a plain English education." At age 23, he was said to have gone to Louisville, Kentucky, but returned

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[1] Leland Bland was the son of Thomas Morton Bland, to be discussed presently; cf. pp. 475 ff . The marriage between Leland and Lydia would indicate a cousin relationship but the parentage of Thomas Morton Bland has not been discovered.

to Hardin County, where he served as county sheriff for many years, and also married Cornelia Williet on October 29, 1841. Elijah and Cornelia had eight children (twelfth generation) and biographical sources listed four: Belle, who married C. W. Rush; Annie, who married V. B. Stiles; Mattie, who married Joseph Farnsworth; and Joseph E. Bland, a Louisville physician, who was still living in Larus County, Kentucky in 1896.[1]

This concludes discussion of the known descendants of John Bland (C.1725-1795), ninth generation son of either William Bland or John Bland, who moved to Jefferson-Nelson County, Kentucky in 1781-1782. These are so-called Irish Blands, an appellation perhaps attributed to John Bland's marriage to Margaret Osborne, and Osborne Bland Junior's marriage to Patsy Donahoo. To this writer, their experience up to about 1850 is the most interesting of the several lines that descend through these several sons of James Bland (seventh generation).

A number of unlinked but fairly coherent Kentucky lines remain. I am convinced that a thorough research and analysis of the primary documents in Kentucky would yield a wealth of information that would answer, among other things, whether John Bland (ninth generation) had siblings who went with him to Kentucky, and who John's father was. It could easily shed valuable light upon the structure of the Northern Virginia Bland family during the 18th century, for I believe Kentucky was, after 1781,

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[1] One eleventh generation grandson of John Bland, whose parentage is uncertain to this author, might be Samuel Bland (1780-1848) who married Rachel _____ (1784-1847). They were the parents of Allen Bland, who was born in Hardin County January 16, 1811. Allen died in Macomb County, Illinois. He married on May 3, 1837 in Hardin County, Elizabeth Elliott (September 12, 1812-October 24, 1893). They were the parents of five children, including: William Thomas Bland, born in Wanketa, Oklahoma and married (1) Laura Barlow, and (2) Cora Morrow; Samuel James Bland, born February 5, 1839 and died in Macomb, Illinois October 20, 1927, married Mary Leticia Simmons on January 7, 1860. They had ten children whose lives extended into the 20th century: Rachel Bland, who married _____ Simpson; Mary Bland, who married Jack Humberd and Samuel Smith; and Hettie Bland, who married ____ Sharpe. James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, p. 60.

the vortex of migration, a kind of clearinghouse through which most of the various branches of the family traveled prior to their dispersal to points further west.

No such analysis of the Blands in Kentucky has been done, to my knowledge. In the few pages that follow, I would like to discuss a few of the coherent families that lived in Kentucky from about 1800-1850, but have not been connected to the extended family of John Bland (ninth generation).

Kentucky Missing Links

James Bland of Warren County, Missouri

James Bland, whose parentage is uncertain, was born in Nelson County Kentucky February 23, 1793, and died January 6, 1849 in Warren County, Missouri. He married, on October 22, 1818, Mary Wyatt, in Nelson County Mary was the daughter of Rebecca Anderson and probably the step-daughter of Hedgeman Anderson, who consented to Mary's marriage. Mary Wyatt was born May 28, 1799 and died December 20, 1877, in Paris, Texas, where she was visiting her sons. At the time of her death, her residence was Liberty, Clay County, Missouri.

James Bland and Mary Wyatt had a family of eight children, includin Serena Bland, Perry T. Bland, John S. Bland, Hodge A. Bland,[1] Rebecca E. Bland who married W. G. Gordon of Clay County, Missouri, Emmaline Bland, who married Adam Frey, Emily Jane Bland who married William Whipple Adam on June 6, 1842. Adams died in 1844 and Emily Jane remarried T. C. Gord of Clay County, and their oldest child, William Wyatt Bland, who was bor

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1 John S. Bland and Hodge A. Bland moved to Paris, Texas.

August 10, 1819 and died sometime after 1880. William was trained in medicine in the late 1830's and moved to Maryville, Missouri in 1840. Between 1850-1853 he was in California, but returned to Clay County, Missouri, and later moved to Clinton County. In 1880, William Wyatt Bland was elected to the Missouri State Senate, representing a district composed of Clay, Platte and Clinton Counties. William married Annie E. Payne, of Clinton, Missouri, and by her had seven children: Mary B. Bland; Serena E. Bland, who married J. C. Atchison; James A. Bland, who married Cora Fry. They were the parents of William Abram Bland, who married Linnie Fields, of Clinton County, Missouri.[1] Henry F. Bland; Luella Bland; Annie Lee Bland; and Louis L. Bland.

The parentage of James Bland (1793-1849), progenitor of this line, is uncertain, but inasmuch as he was born in Nelson County, Kentucky, I suspect he was related to John Bland (ninth generation) and Margaret Osborne, possibly as a grandchild and son of one of their tenth generation children. This possibility, and the close geographic proximity that is barely masked by the changing county jurisdictions of Lincoln, Nelson and Washington Counties in Kentucky, suggests further interrelationships, with at least one and possibly two families in the Washington County area, including a man who became a candidate for President of the United States.

The Man Who Would Be President: Richard Parks Bland, His Ancestry and Descendants

William Vincent Byars, biographer of Richard Parks Bland, wrote that his ancestors were among the earliest settlers in Kentucky, which

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1 James, Court and Bible Records, pp. 51-52.

was true, and also that he "mostly" was descended from Colonel Theodorick Bland, the seventh generation soldier, physician and statesman of the James River Bland family,[1] which was not true.

Richard Parks Bland was descended from a family that reached back into Virginia but moved to Kentucky, probably after the Revolution. The first trace of this family began to appear in the Lincoln and Washington County, Kentucky records during the early 1780's, much like John Bland (ninth generation).

A man named "Rolly" (probably a variation of Roland) Bland, did service in the American Revolution in Virginia.[2] The parentage of this Rolly or Roland Bland is unknown, but he was probably the progenitor of the family that grew in Washington County during the next half-century. I do not know of anyone who has carefully researched this family during the critical period of, say, 1784, and about 1835.[3] In the absence of such research, I would like to suggest the possibility that Roland Bland, the Revolutionary soldier, moved to Kentucky in the early 1780's,

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1 William Vincent Byars, An American Commoner: The Life and Times of Richard Parks Bland, A Study of the Last Quarter of the Nineteenth Centur (1900), p. 35, hereafter referred to in notes as Byars. Cf. discussion of Theodorick Bland (seventh generation), who had no children, pp. 170-181.

2 Dawson notes, citing Brumbaugh, Hoyt, Gwathney, p. 69, Saffels List and McAllister. A younger Rolly Bland who died in 1825, named a posthumously born child Thomas Roland Bland. Alternately, John Bland married Mary Roley in Washington County, January 13, 1800, suggesting the possibility that Rolly is a variant of Roley, a family that might have lived near the Rolly Bland family in Virginia and moved with them to Kentucky.

3 Some research on this family was done by Dr. Curtis Bland, of Vincennes, Indiana, but I have never been able to locate it. James, Court and Bible Records makes some use of Dr. Bland's work.

like John Bland of Nelson County (ninth generation), and that Roland came to Kentucky with a wife Rachel. Alternately, Roland might have died early after arriving in Kentucky, or in Virginia, so that his wife Rachel migrated to Kentucky as a head of household.

Rachel Bland was in Lincoln County, Kentucky by 1784, and later in Washington County. That she was a widow by 1784 is attested by a number of instances in which she consented to marriages by her daughters. The first of these was on January 3, 1784, when Rachel Bland married Michael Fagen in Lincoln County. This Rachel was the daughter of the elder Rachel Bland. Another daughter of the widow Rachel Bland was Prudence Bland, who married George Watts in Lincoln County on March 20, 1786. Thirdly, the widow Rachel Bland signed her consent on November 10, 1789, for the marriage of her daughter Susannah Bland to James Arbuckle in Nelson County.[1]

Rachel Bland's name appears on the tax rolls of Washington County in 1794, 1795 and 1797. Two deeds in Washington County contribute to understanding further the assumed children of Roland Bland and his widow Rachel. On June 15, 1799, Rachel deeded to her son Charles Bland all her personal property and the 125 acres of land upon which "I now live" (suggesting, among other things, that Rachel died soon after). This land is subsequently listed as at "Rolling Fork."[2] On September 8, 1799, George Watt and his wife, Prudence Bland, deeded 97 acres of land on the Waters of the Pleasant Run to Thomas Bland.[3]

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1 James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, pp. 53-58, 61-63, passim.

2 Ibid., citing Washington County Deed Book B, p. 246, June 15, 1799.

3 By 1820, a William Bland also owned land on Pleasant Run.

An interconnectedness of documents creates a plausible number of sons, in addition to the three daughters of the assumed marriage of Roland and Rachel Bland. The first document to examine is the will of Charles Bland, who received property from his mother Rachel in 1799.

> In the name of God, Amen, I, Charles Bland, of Washington County and State of Kentucky, do constitute ...this my last will and testament...money arising from the sale of my estate...to be divided equally between my beloved wife Ann Bland, my beloved daughter Nancy Bland, and my beloved daughter Julian Bland, and my beloved daughter Scarber Bland, and my beloved son Staughton Bland, and my beloved son Fielding Bland, and my beloved son Franklin Bland, and my beloved daughter Mary Eliza Bland, and my beloved son William Bland, and I give and bequeath to my son Warrington Bland one dollar and no more, and I also will and bequeath unto my beloved wife Ann Bland, all the estate both real and personal which she had before I mared her...given from under my hand and seal this 12th day of April, 1819.

Charles Bland must have died shortly before July 12, 1819, when his executors made a bond for $4,000 in settlement of his estate. His will certainly provides ample documentation of his family, but does not tell the full story. Charles married Nancy (Ann) Knott[1] on November 2, 1817, but she was his second wife. His first wife, and the source of names for several of his children, was Catherine Staughton*, daughter of Scarborough Staughton, whom Charles married on September 28, 1795. Catherine was the mother of Charles' children. It should be noted that two of these sons, Warrington T. Bland and Staughton Edward Bland appeared as creditors in the estate settlement of Rolly Bland, who made his will on June 24, 1825. Rolly's estate was settled December 27, 1830.[2]

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1 James, Court and Family Bible Records, p. 61. Note also the marriage of Elizabeth Bland to Ambrose Knott in Nelson County in 1828. Cf. pp. 347-348.

* This name is repeatedly misspelled in documents. I think it should probably be Staughton.

2 Ibid., p. 57, citing Washington County Deed Book D, pp. 110, 151.

TABLE XXX

THE ASSUMED FAMILY OF ROLLY (ROLAND) BLAND OF VIRGINIA AND WASHINGTON COUNTY, KENTUCKY

Rolly (Roland) Bland = Rachel _____.*

Rachel Bland married Michael Fagan in 1784.	Prudence Bland married George Watt in 1786.	Susannah Bland married James Arbuckle in 1789.	Thomas Morton Bland married Ann Lawrence.
Roland (Rolly) Bland married Delsey Shekles-worth in 1799, and Sarah Thomas in 1824.	John Bland married Mary Roley in 1800.	Samuel Bland married Jenny Sheklesworth in 1800.	Charles Bland (-1819) married Catherine Staughton in 1795, and Ann Knott in 1817.
			Staughton Edward Bland (1807-1842) married Margaret Nall in 1834.
			Richard Parks Bland (1835-1899) married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell in 1873.

* Evidence in Kentucky records validates a parent-child relationship between Rachel Bland and the identified children. Her marriage to Rolly (Roland) Bland is assumed.

Rolly, who appears interchangeably in the Washington County records as Roland, also owned land on Rolling Fork, from 1799 to 1809, and on a place called Carney Creek from 1800-1816. He again is listed with land on Rolling Fork from 1821-1825. Roland must have been born in the 1770's, and was probably granted the land in Washington County when his mother died about 1799. Rolly married twice, first to Delsey Sheklesworth on October 2, 1799 in Washington County, and second, to Sarah ("Sally") Thomas on October 30, 1824. In his will, Thomas left bequests to his children: John Bland; Allen Bland; Susan Daughtery; Jane Bland; Prudence Bland; Samuel Bland; and five younger children, Green, Fanny, William, Rachel and Malinda Bland, A son by Sarah Thomas named Thomas Roland Bland was born on June 28, 1825, just four days after Roland Bland made his will.

Thus a fair construction is possible of the assumed family of Rolly Bland of Virginia, and Rachel, his wife. They were probably married in the mid-1760's, for their daughters began to marry in the 1780's, and in each case, Rachel's consent was necessary. Additionally, from deeds already noted, it is likely that there were three sons: Rolly, Charles and Thomas. Additionally, there may have been at least two additional sons: John Bland, who married Mary Roley on January 13, 1800; and Samuel Bland, who married Jenny Sheklesworth on February 5, 1800.

There is then the possibility that the family of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and his widow, Rachel Bland, would look something like this:

Rachel Bland ( ), who married Michael Fagan in 1784.

Prudence Bland ( ), who married George Watt in 1786.[1]

Susannah Bland ( ), who married James Arbuckle in 1789.

Charles Bland (-1819) who married (1) Catherine Staton in 1795, and (2) Ann Knott in 1817.

Rolly (Roland) Bland (-1825) who married (1) Delsey Sheklesworth in 1799, and (2) Sarah Thomas in 1824.

John Bland ( ) who married Mary Roley in 1800.

Samuel Bland ( ) who married Jenny Sheklesworth in 1800.

Thomas Bland, of whom more later.

Charles Bland, in his will of 1819, mentioned ten children born to his first wife, Catherine Staughton. Of these, specific information is known only about two sons: Warrington Bland, who apparently was in his father's disfavor,married Letitia Curtsinger on October 6, 1828.

The other son of Charles Bland and Catherine Staughton of whom further information is known is Staughton Edward Bland, who was born July 4, 1807 and died June 5, 1842. He was a beneficiary of a good formal education, and was trained for the Presbyterian ministry, but in 1838 he established a post office at a place called "Bland's Mill" in Ohio county, and became postmaster. He married Margaret Parks Nall in Washington County on October 9, 1834. Margaret was born June 4, 1816 at Hartford, Ohio County, Kentucky, and died December 20, 1849,

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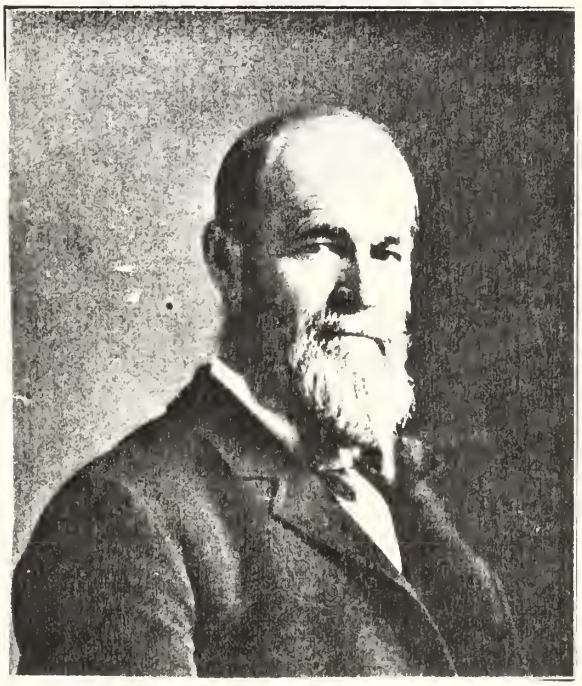
[1] If the names Watt and Wyatt were interchangeable, it might be possible to ascertain that James Bland, who married Mary Wyatt in Nelson County, was a son of one of these brothers. The William Bland mentioned above was probably too young to have been a son of Rolly and Rachel Bland. He may have been the same person who married Maria Nelson in Washington County on August 28, 1818, and the son of one of the above brothers, most likely of Charles Bland.

Children of Staughton Edward Bland and Margaret Parks Nall.

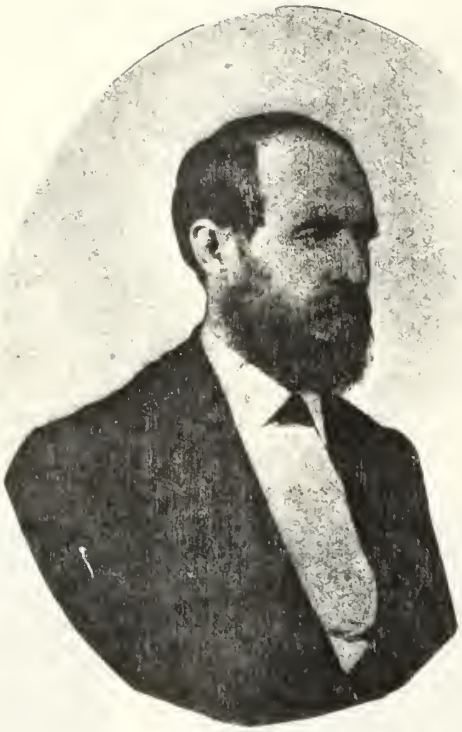
Left: Richard Parks Bland.

Below Right: Charles C. Bland.

Below Left: Mrs. Elizabeth Bland Tetley.



Source: William V. Byars, American Commoner (1900).



Richard Parks Bland and Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell in 1873, the year of their marriage.

Source: William V. Byars, American Commoner (1900).

at which time she was married to Francis Black whom she married in 1844.[1] Staughton Edward Bland and Margaret Nall had a family of four children, of whom information is available about three, including Charles C. Bland, who later moved to Arcadia, Missouri, and became a Judge of the St. Louis Court of Appeals. Elizabeth Bland, who married _____ Tetley, and Richard Parks Bland, who was born August 19, 1835 at Hartford in Ohio County, Kentucky, and died June 15, 1899.

Following his father's death, Richard Parks Bland lived with his mother until her death in 1849. Afterward, he lived at the home of Isaiah Craig, working summers and attending school during the winter months. When he finished his schooling, about 1854, Richard went to Wayne County, Missouri, to live with an aunt. He taught school there for a few months, but in 1855 he accompanied his aunt and uncle on a trip to New York and California.

Richard's aunt and uncle died soon after their arrival in California and he took custody of their three small children. Remaining in California until 1867, Richard dabbled unprofitably at mining, teaching, and served briefly as Treasurer for the Utah Territory. He returned to Rolla, Missouri, and practiced law there until 1869, when he opened up a practice in Lebanon, Laclede County. In 1872, he was elected as a Democrat to the United States Congress, after which he never practiced law again.

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[1] Information about Staughton Edward Bland and his wife, Margaret Nall, as well as their son, Richard Parks Bland and his siblings, is found in Byars, pp. 35, 264-285. Another useful and briefer source is W. R. Hollister and H. Norman, Five Famous Missourians (1900), pp. 95-172.

From his district in the Ozarks, as well as his California experience in mining, Richard Bland was intimately familiar with the problems of the silver miners and frontier farmers who composed the Free Silver constituency. The issue that propelled Bland to national prominence was the demonetization of silver as a mode of exchange in 1873. The net effect was to leave gold as the exclusive monetary standard in the United States, and Silverites labeled this law "the crime of '73." For the next five years, greatly abetted by shifting international markets which improved the value of silver, Richard Bland waged a tireless battle on behalf of silver as a standard of exchange, or in other words, to reinstitute a bimetallist standard. The Free Silver party remained a powerful force, particularly within the Democratic Party, for the next quarter century, reaching its apotheosis in the 1896 Democratic Convention in Chicago, when William Jennings Bryan, the first Silver man to become a presidential candidate for a major party (he defeated Richard Parks Bland), thundered to his opposition: "You shall not press down upon the brow of labor this crown of thorns; you shall not crucify mankind on a cross of gold."

Richard Bland guided a bill for the free coinage of silver through the House in his first term, but it was reversed in the Senate. In 1876-1877, fortunes for the Silverites began to turn, however, and Bland became the chief sponsor for the Bland-Allison Act of 1878 that remonetized silver and provided for limited silver coinage.[1] President Hayes vetoed the bill but it was enacted over his veto. The Democratic Party

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[1] Free Silver, like most economic issues, is vastly opaque. The best short course on the issue of silver monetization and the Bland-Allison Act is Irwin Unger, The Greenback Era: A Social and Political History of American Finance, 1865-1879 (1964), pp. 328-373, passim.

was in power in Washington between 1885-1889 and 1893-1897, when Grover Cleveland was President, but Cleveland was really another version of Eastern interests, and with his election in 1892, the Western Silver Party men, who were Democrats, began to chafe. Richard Bland made a famous "Parting of the Ways" speech in 1893, in which he served notice that western Democrats would place the silver issue above party loyalty. This intra-party dissent, as well as Cleveland's unpopular second administration, contributed to Richard Parks Bland's defeat by 70 votes in 1894.

Out of power for two years, Bland took to the lecture circuit, where he preached the silver issue and became the logical candidate of the Democratic Party for President which, in 1896, was controlled by the silver faction.

Bland was, however, a bit too old[1] and his logical mind and well reasoned thoughts emerged from his mouth in the most stolid and uninspiring way. At the nominating convention in Chicago, Bland led for the first three ballots, but had to yield eventually to the man everyone wanted, the young, eloquent, charismatic and long-winded William Jennings Bryan, 35-year-old prodigy from Nebraska, who proceeded to electrify the crowd with his Cross of Gold speech, and then went on to lose to William McKinley in a landslide. In the 1896 election, however, Richard Bland was reelected to his district seat in the House of Representatives and held it until he died. He was said to have lived his life very simply, and probably died poorer than when he

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[1] In 1896, Richard Parks Bland was too old to be President, sixteen years before Ronald Reagan became a twinkle in his father's eye.

entered public office. He was reckoned a very logical and clear-headed though zealous speaker, and in a time of unusually corrupt politics, he was an honest man, withdrawing from law practice after his election to the House, refusing to take a salary increase which was voted by Congress, and refusing various lucre offered him by lobbies who attempted to curry his favor.

Richard Parks Bland married Virginia Elizabeth Mitchell on December 17, 1873, daughter of General E. Y. Mitchell, of Rolla, Missouri. Virginia was born in 1854, and the date of her death was uncertain. Richard Bland and Elizabeth Mitchell had the following children: Virgie (Virginia) born January 18, 1875 and died April 3, 1876; Fanny, born June 4, 1876 in Washington, D.C.; Theodorick, born November 25, 1877 in Lebanon, Missouri;[1] Ewing Charles, born May 17, 1882 in Washington, D.C.; George Vest, born February 10, 1884 in Washington, D.C.; Hattie, born in Lebanon, Missouri November 5, 1885 and died March 3, 1887; Margaret Nall, born December 1, 1887 and died September 11, 1892; John Lilburn, born July 28, 1889; Virginia M. Bland, born in Washington, D.C., December 19, 1892.

The second son of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and his wife Rachel, was Rolly or Roland Bland. By his first wife Delsey Sheklesworth, Rolly had eleven children, named in his will and previously listed. Of these, it is known that his son, Allen Bland, married Hetty Hardin on March 8, 1824, in Washington County. Rolly's daughter Susan married John Daughtery on March 30, 1821, and Jane Bland married Anthony

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[1] Perhaps this was an indication that Richard didn't know much about his ancestry. His brother, Charles C. Bland, stated to Byars, "I know so little about our father that I am unable to tell you the names of his parents or brothers or sisters." Byars, p. 267.

Sandusky on August 28, 1826. The son, Thomas Roland, born just after his father's death on June 28, 1825, married Sarah Robinson in Hardin County on November 7, 1845. Sarah was born December 7, 1824. Their children were: Amelia Bland, born April 27, 1846; Betty Bland, born November 26, 1848; Willaim B. Bland, born January 6, 1850; John Bland, born December 26, 1851; Susan Bland, born April 7, 1853; Mattie Bland, born February 9, 1855; Isabelle Bland, born February 26, 1860; Watt Bland, born August 24, 1861; Samuel A. Bland, born August 4, 1863; Anna Bland, born July 24, 1866; Thomas Bland, born September 19, 1868.[1]

Thomas Roland Bland and Sarah Robinson lived near Hadginville, Kentucky, while their children were young.

The only son of Rolly Bland, of Virginia, and Rachel, for whom information remains was Thomas Bland, whom I believe was the Thomas Morton Bland who lived in Washington County, Kentucky early in the 1800's. The key researcher of the family of Thomas Morton Bland is Richard Smith, of DeKalb, Illinois. In a communication to this author, Mr. Smith quoted the following statement from an old compilation of information on Kentucky families:

> Samuel K(endley) Bland was born March 3, 1823 in Washington County, Kentucky (now Marion). He is the fifth of three sons and three daughters (two now living) born to John and Sally Kendley Bland, who were reared in Marion and Mercer Counties respectively. John Bland was an extensive farmer and died in 1865, aged seventy years. He had moved to Simpson County in 1833, and settled near South Union, where he owned 320 acres. He was the son of Thomas Bland, who was one of the early pioneers of Kentucky, moved to Simpson County, and lived with his children until his death. Thomas came

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1 James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records, p. 63.

> from Virginia to Kentucky and was of Scotch-Irish descent...Samuel K. Bland married September 10, 1844, Elizabeth D. Viers of Simpson County, a daughter of Polly (Darnell) Viers, who was born and reared in Maryland. Four children blessed this union: John F.; Mary E. Cox; Euclid V. (deceased); and King S. Mrs. Bland died in December 1882, aged 57.[1]

From this single paragraph, certainly a juicy genealogical plum, Mr. Smith has been able to flesh out a fair representation of Thomas Morton Bland, whom Samuel K. Bland called his grandfather. Thomas Morton Bland, as stated above, came to Kentucky from Virginia. He must have been a relatively young man when he came to Kentucky, for at least one of his sons was born in 1795, suggesting perhaps that Thomas Morton Bland married Anne Lawrence in the 1790's. The 1810 census shows Thomas Morton Bland with nine children (six girls and three boys) which Mr. Smith believes was the extent of his family. Mr. Smith has identified the three sons,[2] and five of the six daughters of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence:

Among the five identified daughters, Mr. Smith lists Adaline Bland Polly (Mary) Bland, Elizabeth Bland, Lydia Bland and Lucinda Bland. Judging from the dates of their marriages, Elizabeth and Polly were older daughters. Polly married Thomas Pearce in Washington County, March 20, 1816. Elizabeth married, probably, Anthony Wilson, December 1818. Elizabeth died of pneumonia March 15, 1833, and it appears that her husband migrated to Kansas.[3] Lucinda Bland married Samuel Pottinge

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1 Quoted in a letter, Richard Smith to Charles Bland, November 1, 19

2 In earlier communications, Mr. Smith indicated that one of the son was Thomas Bland, who married Elizabeth Duncan November 27, 1819. Thom Bland, who married Elizabeth Duncan, however, was the eleventh generati son of Charles Bland, of Garrard County, Kentucky. In his communicatio to me, Mr. Smith made no reference to this marriage.

3 Note by Mrs. Melvin Dunn indicates that Wilson was found in a volu called "Kansas Pioneers," with reference to his marriage to Elizabeth Bland, and her death by pneumonia. There was a marriage by Elizabeth Bland, daughter of Nancy Bland (Nancy was a variant of Anne) to Daniel Purdy in Washington County, November 29, 1824.

Phillips on September 22 or 23, 1828. A tombstone at the Cox Creek Baptist Church, Nelson County, recording other information about this family, indicates that Lucinda was born December 13, 1807, and died September 15, 1843.[1] Adaline Bland married Gregory Glasscock, in Washington County, April 11, 1829. Bondsman at that wedding was Green Duncan.[2]

Mr. Smith lists a daughter, Lydia Bland, but I have been unable to find additional information about her.

Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence had three known sons: Leland, John, and Samuel Lawrence Bland. Of these, Leland is perhaps the youngest. He married Lydia Bland, a daughter of William Bland, Nelson and Hardin Counties, who was the tenth generation son of John Bland (ninth generation).[3] John Bland would have been the eldest son, and the description provided by his son, Samuel Kendley Bland, indicates that he lived from 1795-1865. He married Sally Kendley February 27, 1815[4] in Washington County. As the above description by his son indicated, John Bland had a family of six children. Samuel L. Bland, the third son of Thomas Morton Bland and Anne Lawrence, was born March 29, 1802, and died April 1, 1839.[5] Samuel Lawrence Bland married Harriet Phillips, daughter of James Phillips, in Nelson County, January 12, 1829.[6]

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1 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980.

2 Rolly Bland had a son, Green Bland; cf. p. 467.

3 Cf. discussion of William, pp. 459-461, esp. p. 460.

4 Cf. p. 439, note 1.

5 Jessamine James to Charles Bland, November 28, 1980, citing Register of the Kentucky State Historical Society, Vol. 30, pp. 187, 192. Samuel's will was made in Nelson County, March 30, 1839, and probated April 8, 1839.

6 The Bland-Phillips connection may weave back to the intermarriages of Margaret Bland (eleventh generation), daughter of Osborne and Lettice Bland, to William Phillips in 1786. One of Margaret's sons, George Phillips, married a Kendley on August 29, 1815, as did Samuel Lawrence Bland's brother, John. Harriet Phillips was born January 7, 1808 and died August 16, 1856.

The names of children of Samuel Lawrence Bland and Harriet Phillips are not altogether certain. Samuel did not live long enough to have a very large family. Perhaps two of their children were Samuel P. (Phillips or Pottinger) Bland, who was born April 2, 1835 and died May 3, 1856, and Elizabeth Bland, who was born June 5, 1837 and died April 2, 1855.[1] Certainly one child in the ancestral line of Richard Smith was James Bemis Bland, born September 12, 1831 in Washington County, and died September 9, 1910 in Paris, Missouri. James Bemis Bland married Margaret Hill, and by her had three sons: Benjamin, who went to Texas; James A. Bland, who died in Wisconsin in 1925; and Samuel Bland, who died in New Mexico in 1886. James Bemis Bland and Margaret Hill also had a daughter, Elizabeth Bland, who was born September 17, 1861 in Paris, Missouri, and died January 5, 1936 in Brookings, South Dakota. Elizabeth married Joseph Catlett.[2]

In pursuit of Thomas Morton Bland's parentage, Mr. Smith has looked to England and found that Thomas Bland and two William Blands were sentenced to be transported to the American Colonies in Middlesex County in October 1770, and were transported December 1770 aboard the ship Justitia.[3] Mr. Smith's further research indicates that the Justitia arrived in Virginia at Leedstown in March 1771. Also on the manifest of the Justitia were Lawrences and Mortons.

The relationship of the two Williams to Thomas Bland on the good ship Justitia is not certain. Whether a Roland Bland was among the

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1 Lucinda Bland, a daughter of Samuel Lawrence Bland and Harriet Phillips, was born October 27, 1839, and died January 21, 1850.

2 Joseph Catlett and Elizabeth Bland had a daughter, Marguriete, who married Homer Smith, and they were the parents of Richard Smith.

3 Smith to Charles Bland, November 1, 1981, citing Peter Coldham, English Convicts in Colonial America (1976).

migrants is likewise uncertain. What remains is a possibility that Roland Bland and his family came to the American Colonies from Middlesex County in England, a county that in today's parlance would be considered a bedroom community of London. Arriving in Virginia aboard a convict ship, during a period of revolutionary fervor, Rolly would have volunteered for service. His sons were too young to serve in the Revolutionary War, but the family made its way out to Kentucky with the waves of other white people who went there following the Revolution. They settled amazingly close, in the Nelson-Washington County area, to the location of John Bland (ninth generation), and although it may be accidental, one of Thomas Morton's sons married a granddaughter of John Bland (ninth generation). Living in the same county was Rolly Bland, apparently about the same age as Thomas, along with siblings John, Charles and Samuel.

It is virtually impossible to calculate linkages between Rolly Bland and his wife Rachel, and John Bland (ninth generation), or his children. One intriguing lead, however, would be to trace and strengthen the hypothesis of Mr. Smith that Thomas Morton Bland came here from England, Middlesex County, on a convict ship. If confirmed by research in the appropriate original records, one might conclude that the Rolly Bland family represents one of the several branches who did not descend from the two major branches of the Bland family. Alternately, however, one might take the Middlesex County possibility as a starting point for information about the parentage of James Bland (seventh generation).

The Children of Susan Bland, Hardin County, Kentucky

The 1850 census index for Kentucky shows Henry, Jesse, Lydia, Susan and William living together in very close proximity. Henry Bland's household was enumerated as follows:

	Age
Henry Bland	42
Alice Bland	41
Elmira	18
Maria	14
Strothers	13
Marina	11
James	7
Evarts	5

Living in close proximity to Henry Bland was William Bland, aged 37, and Susan Bland, aged 60. Susan may have been the widowed mother of Henry and William Bland and, if the names of Henry's children are any indication, her maiden name might have been Strothers or Evarts, or some variation of either. Susan witnessed and signed consent for a number of marriages between 1829-1839 in which she was declared the mother of: Henry Bland, who married Mariah English, and Jane Bland, who married Leonard Farmer, both on August 3, 1829 (note that if Henry was born in 1808 or thereabouts, he could have still been technically not of age and therefore requiring consent for this marriage in 1829). Henry's daughte Elmira, who was 18 in 1850, would have undoubtedly been from this earlie marriage. When Mariah English died is uncertain, but Henry remarried, to Alice V. Harding, on April 21, 1835. The younger children, begi-ning with Maria, aged 14 in 1850, would have been children of the later marriage. Susan Bland also signed consents for the marriages of daughters Susan to William Mather on July 11, 1831; Mary to John English on January 18, 1836; and Marina Bland to William Abell on November 12, 1839 The two intermarriages between Blands and Englishes would tend to confir

that the William Bland who married Adline English on May 11, 1835, was the same man who was 37 in 1850. All of the above would indicate that Susan Bland, born about 1790, would have been married by 1807, and would have been mother of at least two sons and four daughters. The Kentucky marriage records I have seen shed no light on a marriage by a Bland to Susan _____ about 1807, thus leaving uncertain Susan's maiden name, the name of her husband and his parentage.

Reuben Bland, of Pulaski County

Pulaski County, formed in 1798 and named after Count Pulaski, the Revolutionary hero, lies far to the south of the Nelson-Washington area, sandwiched between Wayne, Casey and Lincoln Counties (see Map XIV, p. 426A). Pulaski County was the home of Reuben Bland, who was born sometime in the 1780's and died during the 1840's.[1] Where Reuben was born is unknown; however, on February 1, 1814, he married Dicey West, daughter of Zerimea West, in Wayne County. In the 1850 census, Dicey is shown to be aged 60, from North Carolina. She and Reuben Bland settled in Pulaski County, where Reuben purchased a small plot of 80 acres in 1818, on Forbus Watercourse. By Dicey West, Reuben was the father of sons: William, born in 1815; Joshua, born 1818; Walker, born about 1827. His daughters were: Dicey, born in 1823; Esther, born in 1825; Margaret, born in 1831; and Polly A. Bland, born in 1838; and possibly, Polly's twin, Neptha. Reuben and Dicey also had a daughter, Anny or Nancy, who married Stephen Whitaker in Pulaski County May 4, 1841. The possibilities are suggested by the configuration of Reuben's family in 1850, by which time he was

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[1] The chief researcher, indeed the only one I know of, for Reuben Bland and his descendants is Pansy Lea (Howard) Wilburn, of San Modesto, California.

dead and his wife and younger children were living in Casey County within another household. Among the older children, William was in Pulaski County with his own family, and the same was true of Joshua, who was in Casey County. The son, Walker, eluded detection by census records, but was in Pulaski County in 1854. Among Reuben's children, in addition to the aforementioned marriage of Anny or Nancy Bland, William Bland married a woman named _____ Phearsby, sometime in the 1840's. Joshua married twice. The name of his first wife was unknown. His second wife was Malvina Richardson whom he married April 22, 1854, in Casey County. Dicey Bland married William W. Dalton, and Margaret Bland married Jesse Soman in Casey County on February 18, 1855. Walker Bland married Louisa Raybourn on July 2 or 28, 1848.

As indicated, Walker Bland was born about 1827 and he died after 1870. Walker had a knack of being away whenever the census taker came round, so facts about him are scarce, but it is known that he was a shoe cobbler, and the location of his children indicates that he and Louisa remained in the Casey-Pulaski area until the late 60's when Walker migrated to Wright County, Missouri. Why Walker moved to Missouri is uncertain, but two causes are suggested by the record. First, his wife Louisa died about 1863 of smallpox. Second, Kentucky was a difficult state politically during the Civil War. Walker Bland was an abolitionist, which on the scale of political sympathies would place him in a less desirable light amount southerners than a stanch defender of Abraham Lincoln. Whatever the reasons, oral tradition has it that he remarried to a woman who may have been named Pointer or Poyner, a marriage that was said to have been an unhappy one. The children of Walker and Louisa Raybourn Bland were: John; Reuben; Edward; Joshua Bell Daniel, who died young; Thomas; Jane; and Margaret. Edward was born about 1856, and he

married Margaret Hollaway about 1879. The key child in Mrs. Willburn's delineation of the family was Joshua Bell Bland, who was born May 15, 1854, at Trace Fork, Kentucky, and died April 27, 1931, at Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Joshua witnessed a great deal of family hardship during his early life, including the death of his mother, the deaths of two brothers, and some political hardship because of his father's pro-abolitionist views. Joshua was educated, and later became a minister and circuit rider. He was known by one of his daughters as a fine public speaker, though a bit slow on the drawl. He was a short man, slight of build, with black hair, light complexion, and brown eyes. Joshua was a prolific and avid reader and in politics, as would befit a Bland, a free silver advocate who jumped on the bandwagon of Silver Dick Bland. He was quick-tempered, easy to anger, and easy to calm down, a trait that almost got him physically in trouble when, while haranguing a crowd from a wagon, he agitated local anti-silverites, and was about ready to engage the crowd in some hand-to-hand combat when his sister-in-law grabbed him by the scruff of his neck and made him go home.

Joshua Bell Bland married Nancy Elizabeth Casey in Wright County, Missouri on July 26, 1874. All of his eleven children were born in Wright County. They were: (1) Sarah Triphena, born June 11, 1875, who died as an infant; (2) Mary Rosetta Bland, born June 4, 1877, who died in 1899. She married James Gamble in 1893. (3) Melviney Jane, born June 20, 1880, and died in 1887; (4) Noah Alonzo Bland, born March 20, 1882. He married in 1907, Druscilla Blevins. (5) Omah N. Bland, born September 2, 1884, and died in his infancy; (6) Emma Ann Bland, born June 29, 1886, and married in Arkansas on August 4, 1904, Charles Samuel Scott; (7) Ida May Bland, born April 30, 1889, and still living in 1981,

being the source of information about Joshua Bell Bland and his father, Walker. Ida May married Benjamin Howard in Leflore, Oklahoma, on May 26, 1917.[1] (8) Mattie Pearl Bland, born December 20, 1892, and married James Butler; (9) Henry Elmer Bland, born April 30, 1895, and married Dolly McNeese in 1916; (10) Emmett Newton Bland, born March 27, 1897, married Bertha Mitchell at Leflore, Oklahoma in 1919; (11) the final child of Joshua Bell Bland and Nancy Elizabeth Casey was Verba Magdalene, who was born February 17, 1901, and died about ten days later.[2]

There is nothing in Mrs. Willburn's essays about Reuben, Walker and Joshua Bell Bland to suggest a positive link with the family of John Bland (ninth generation). Some clues that would lead to that end would be the fact that Dicey West, Reuben's wife, was born in North Carolina. Like many families, Reuben gave family names to his son. What was the origin of Walker Bland's name? One may recall that Lettice Bland (twelfth generation) married a William Walker, who was a little older than Walker Bland. The children of Osborne Bland Junior and Patsy Donahoo in fact lived side by side in Greene County, Indiana with families of Walkers,[3] some from Virginia and some from North Carolina. Also, grandchildren of John Bland (ninth generation) held land in Missouri, as did Walker Bland; for example, Samuel Bland and John Bland (eleventh generation sons of Samuel Bland) held land in Lewis County, Missouri.

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1 Ida May Bland and Benjamin Howard were the parents of Pansy Lea (Howard) Willburn, my correspondent.

2 Information about Reuben, Walker and Joshua Bell Bland was supplied the author by Mrs. Pansy Lea Willburn, November 23, 1981.

3 Cf. p. 451, note 1, and p. 460, marriage of Susannah Bland, daughter of William Bland (tenth generation) to Lewis Walker.

None of this creates more than the barest semblance of a relationship and leaves one with the conclusion that as of now, Reuben Bland's parentage or a linkage of him to the Northern Virginia Bland family is undiscovered.

This concludes discussion about the family and descendants of John Bland (ninth generation), his parentage, and possible connecting links to other clusters of Blands in Kentucky during the first half of the 19th century. The chapter that follows will be devoted to Robert Bland, youngest son of James Bland, of Stafford Count (seventh generation).

CHAPTER XI

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT BLAND: EIGHTH GENERATION

The Founder

The fourth son of James Bland (seventh generation) was Robert Bland (eighth generation). Robert was the youngest male child mentioned in his father's will of 1708. In determining the chronological parameters of Robert's life, it is important to recall that James Bland's will specified that his second son James (eighth generation) would be assigned "the tuition and bringing up ... of my youngest son Robert."[1] In contemporary legal parlance, "tuition" indicated that the concerned child was less than fifteen, if male, and thirteen, if female. Robert and all of James' daughters who were living at the time of his will were placed under the "tuition" of their two eldest brothers or, as the case may be, their half-brothers. The language of James Bland's will suggests that Robert was born sometime between 1693-1708.

In his will, James Bland further stipulated that his wife Margaret should have "my now dwelling plantation, and ... land ... during her natural life and after her decease, to fall to my loving son Robert Bland, and his heirs lawfully begot."[2] In 1723, the Overwharton Parish Rent Rolls showed the "widow Bland" (Margaret) still in possession of

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1 The Will of James Bland, December 22, 1708; cf. pp. 260-261.

2 Ibid. The amount of land in question was 200 acres, Margaret's widow's third of the 600 acres James bought in 1701.

the widow's third of James' estate.[1] Robert's name was not listed. What all of this adds up to is uncertain. To my best understanding, Robert was entitled to the 200 acres when he turned twenty-one, and that he did not, would indicate that by 1723, Robert was still legally a minor. On the other hand, Virginia law would not have compelled Margaret to turn over the land to Robert, and she had every right to hold it until she died. I lean to the notion that Robert's absence from the 1723 rent rolls, which included Margaret and the other three brothers, indicates that he had not yet attained his majority in 1723, thus my reasoning for establishing his birthdate at about 1703.[2]

The balance of Robert Bland's life is problematical. Although I have concluded that he died in 1760, was married and had at least three sons (my reasons will be discussed presently), there is one powerful piece of evidence that Robert died without issue. There is recorded in Prince William Deed Book U (1774) the following deed involving David Bland (tenth generation), grandson of James Bland (eighth generation) and grandnephew of Robert Bland (eighth generation) substantially quoted. In it, David Bland conveys to William Savage:

> ... his moiety and division of one certain tract of land now in his fee under the will of his great grandfather, James Bland, purchased by him from Harrington, (sic)* including the plantation that the said James Bland lived on, and the land from the mouth of the creek to the first branch above the plantation bequeathed to his son, Robert Bland, who died without issue:** Also, a certain parcel of land bequeathed by the said James Bland to his son William Bland, and now in the possession of Josey Waldon, containing 150 acres, more or

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1 King, Registers of Overwharton Parish, p. 146.

2 The estimated birth year of 1703 is about a mean between the parameters of 1693-1708.

> less; also, a certain parcel of land bequeathed by the said James Bland to his son John Bland, being the undivided moiety of a parcel of land bequeathed aforesaid by the said James Bland to his sons John and James by will bearing date the 22nd day of December, 1708, and recorded in the County Court of Stafford...adjoining to one-half of the parcel bequeathed as above the parcel of land sold by me in presence of witness in the nature of an (illegible) issued by the Secretary's office of the colony to the said William Savage, and now in his possession, all of which said parcels of land are bequeathed in the will above mentioned and purchased by the above named James Bland out of Harrington's (sic) patent...[1]

The following additional deed appeared in Prince William Records in 1796:

> ... David Bland, grandson and heir-at-law of James Bland, deceased, conveyed to Willoughby Tebbs, all those lands and tenements within the said county of Prince William, on which the said David now lives, lying and being in Quantico Neck, formerly called Cock Pitt Point Neck, containing now by estimation about 210 acres, the same being formerly granted by Patent dated the 13th day of August, 1711, to Francis Stone, William and James Bland, grandfather to the said David, which said land was devised by the said James Bland, by will dated the 16th day of February, 1755, and recorded in the said county, the 22nd day of March, 1756, to the said David Bland and Benjamin Bland, or the survivor, together with all the rest of his estate (the said land being first purchased by the said James Bland and the said Stone and William Bland ... excepting 30 acres out of the aforementioned land conveyed by the said Bland unto John Curry and now in possession of the widow of said Curry, as reference to the said deed will more fully appear. Also, one other tract or parcel of land lying and being on Occoquan Run, granted to said James Bland, at or near what is now called Davis' Ford, also one other tract of land in Terrapin Forest, formerly called Pate's Oars or otherwise (illegible) old field...[2]

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* David is talking about his great grandfather's purchase of 600 acres from Burr Harrison in 1701.

** In his 1708 Will, James Bland stipulated that "in case any of my sons should die without issue, (the property) then to fall to the survivors..."

1 Prince William Deed Book U, September 13, 1774, pp. 70-71.

2 Prince William County Deed Book Y, March 25, 1796, p. 664.

The above two deeds show that certainly by 1796, David Bland (tenth generation) was firmly in control of a great deal of land that was deeded to all of the eighth generation brothers by James Bland (seventh generation), as well as land acquired by William and James Bland (eighth generation). The operative document, however, is the 1774 deed in which David Bland states affirmatively that Robert Bland died without issue, language very specific to directions in his great grandfather's will.

This language has been sufficient to cool the genealogical ardor of many a researcher. Kate Duncan Smith, for example, in 1899 put out an inquiry in The William and Mary Quarterly, in which she thought that Robert Bland (eighth generation) had been father of Robert Bland (ninth generation, to be discussed presently).[1] By 1920, however, she had backed away from that supposition and declared in two letters that Robert (ninth generation) was most likely the son of either William, James or John Bland.[2] Not everyone agreed with Mrs. Smith. Mrs. C. F. Henley, of Mint, Tennessee, in 1907, wrote to Robert Linn Bland that she knew of a deed recorded in Loudon County, which proved that Robert Bland, son of James who died in 1708, actually died intestate in Loudon County in 1760, had a widow Jane and sons, Robert, Edward and William.[3]

Indeed, a Robert Bland died intestate in Loudon County between August and November 1760. His estate, with moveable goods valued at

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1 WMG (1), Vol. IV, p. 134.

2 Kate Duncan Smith to Mrs. Earley, March 6 and 19, 1920.

3 Cited in UMB-1, p. 51. This parent-son supposition was followed by Homer Jones in his correspondence with Nel Ford, of Columbus, Missouri.

17 pounds sterling, was inventoried on November 11, 1760.[1] When this Robert died, he was married to a woman named Jane and had three sons, as alleged by Mrs. Henley.[2]

I believe that if Mrs. Smith had thoroughly combed the Virginia Records, she might have pieced together some clues that would have pleased her. For in spite of the assertive claim of David Bland that Robert Bland (eighth generation) died without issue, I believe other evidence positively contradicts him, and demonstrates that Robert Bland, who was the minor mentioned in the 1708 will of James Bland, was the same man who died intestate in Loudon County in 1760.

Robert Bland first appears in surviving records as an adult in Prince William County (formerly Stafford) when he is listed on June 18, 1735 as a debtor to Richard Melton, for seventy pounds of tobacco.[3] Interestingly, another debtor, one John Diskin, owed Melton forty pounds of tobacco. Diskin's significance as a man living in close proximity to Robert Bland will become clear momentarily. That the Robert Bland who was a debtor to Melton was also the Robert Bland named in the 1708 will of James Bland is attested by a 1738 entry in the Prince William County Deed Books, which showed Robert Bland living on Cock-Pitt Point Neck, adjacent to land owned by William, James and

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1 Loudon County Will Book A, August 1760, p. 30. Inventory dated November 11, 1760. Cf. Clayton Torrence, Virginia Wills and Administrations, p. 38.

2 Loudon County Deed Book D, February 15, 1764, p. 109. Dawson Notes citing the National Genealogical Society Quarterly, Vol. 39, p. 117, which lists persons on the Rent Rolls of Loudon County, including "Bland, Robert, heirs of, 527 acres."

3 John Frederick Dorman, Prince William County Will Book: 1734-1744, p. 12.

John Bland (eighth generation).[1] Similarly, in 1741, Robert appeared in polls for the election of Burgesses for Prince William County, as a voter for Valentine Peyton, while Richard Melton voted for William Fairfax. William, James and John Bland voted for both Peyton and Fairfax.[2]

It is unclear whether in succeeding years Robert Bland physically moved, or simply came under new parish and county jurisdiction. I suspect the former. In 1749, an entry in Dettingen Parish Vestry Book showed John Bland collecting a rebate for overtaxation of Robert Bland (presumably an adjustment for an overcharge the previous year).[3] By 1753, Robert was in Fairfax County/Truro Parish, which would later be split, the western portion becoming Loudon County.[4]

More importantly, Robert Bland in 1753 witnessed a lease of land to Isaac Davis, son of William Davis and Elinor Bland. In the same year, Robert leased a tract of 538 acres "on the east side of Licking Run," in Fairfax (later Loudon County) from his old associate, John Diskin.[5] The particular land in question had been deeded to Diskin in

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1 Prince William Deed Book D, August 17, 1738, recorded February 26, 1738/1739, p. 42. This transaction involved a transfer of land from John Melton to William Davis, husband of Elinor Bland, son-in-law of James Bland (seventh generation) and brother-in-law and business associate of William Bland (eighth generation). Cf. discussion of the William Bland-William Davis connection in Chapter VIII, p. 267, note 1.

2 Boogher, Gleanings of Virginia History, pp. 116-120. Robert Bland's relation to Peyton is unclear. Robert Bland (ninth generation) named a son Peyton. Valentine Peyton, along with Thomas Bland, was a creditor in the estate of Francis Stone in 1740. Cf. Dorman, Prince William County Deed Book: 1734-1744, pp. 91-92.

3 Vestry Book of Dettingen Parish, Prince William County, November 4, 1749.

4 Fairfax County Order Book, 1749-1774, p. 459. In 1753, Robert took custody of an Orphan Girl.

5 Ibid. p. 207.

1741 by the Proprietor, while Fairfax was still Prince William County. It is vital to any discussion of the identification of Robert Bland, that two later references to this transaction referred to Robert Bland as deceased, to distinguish that his son Robert was the principal in the later documents. Inasmuch as those documents are primal to our knowledge about the life and descendants of Robert Bland (eighth generation), they are quoted in substance:

> ...This indenture made the 11th day of August in the Year of Our Lord, One Thousand Seven Hundred and Seventy-Five, between Robert Johnson, of Loudon County, and Cameron Parish, in the Colony of Virginia...and Robert Bland, of Cameron Parish in Loudon County... the said Robert Johnson...to him in hand paid by Robert Bland...doth grant, bargain and sell, one certain piece or parcel of land...lying and being in the County of Loudon...lying on the Elk Licking Run, being a part of a tract of land that was taken up by John Diskin, of Prince William County, and sold to Robert Bland, and after his decease, fell to Jane Bland, his wife, and Edward Bland, his son, and the said Jane and Edward Bland made a conveyance of the said land to Robert Johnson by deeds...containing eighty-five acres, more or less, hereby grants unto the said Robert Bland and unto the possession of the said Robert Bland.[1]

So in 1775, Robert Bland purchased from Robert Johnson some 85 acres of land that was originally held by John Diskin, neighbor of Robert Bland, who was living near William, James, John and Robert Bland at Cock-Pitt Point Neck, in Prince William County. The Robert Bland who was principal in this deed was ninth generation. Again, in 1778, Robert Bland (ninth generation) was involved in a transaction pertaining to the Diskin property:

> ...This indenture made the eighteenth day of May in the Year of Our Lord, one thousand seventeen hundred and seventy-eight, between Robert Bland, of Cameron Parish, Loudon County...and Joseph Mershon, of the same county

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[1] Loudon County Deed Book L, August 11, 1775, pp. 1-5.

> and parish...Robert Bland for consideration of one hundred and fifty pounds of current money to him in hand paid by the said Joseph Mershon, confirms one certain parcel of land situated in Loudon County, on the east side of the Elk Licking Run containing five hundred and thirty-eight acres, granted by deed from the proprietor's office, bearing date the tenth day of June, one thousand seven hundred and forty-one, to John Diskin, and by the same John Diskin transferred to Robert Bland, late of Loudon County, deceased, by deeds, duly proved in the County of Fairfax, the said Robert Bland...hereby conveys unto ...Joseph Mershon...[1]

This transaction, in which Robert Bland divested himself of 538 acres was probably done in 1778, preparatory to his move to South Carolina, in which he appears to have followed his older brother Edward, and was thus in 1778 the sole remaining heir in Loudon County of Robert Bland (eighth generation) who could liquidate ownership of what must have been family property.

The foregoing information convinces me that, contrary to the assertion of David Bland in 1774, Robert Bland, son of James Bland (seventh generation), did have heirs, specifically, a wife Jane, and sons Edward and Robert, as well as a son William.[2] The evidentiary linkage found in transactions and geographic proximity between Robert Bland, Richard Melton, and John Diskin, with well documented evidence of a continued

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[1] Loudon County Deed Book P, May 18, 1778, pp. 503-506. The sale excepted 120 acres of the property which was being used by a church.

[2] One alternative possibility for the parentage of Robert Bland, who died in 1760, is that he was the ninth generation son of one of the three eighth generation brothers, William, James and John, by a woman antecedent to their wives at birth. If so, Robert would have had to be twenty-one by 1729. The most likely choice would be William or James, however, if naming practices provide a clue. It should be noted that Robert's son, who moved to South Carolina, had an eldest son John and a youngest son James. This is an alternative offered for others to pursue. My conviction remains that the Robert Bland mentioned in the will of James Bland (seventh generation) is the same man who was creditor to Melton in 1735, purchased land from Diskin in Fairfax County in 1753, and died intestate in Loudon County in 1760.

relationship between Robert Bland and Diskin in Loudon County, is to me persuasive that Robert Bland, son of James (seventh generation), born about 1703, died in Loudon County in 1760.

The reason or motive for David Bland's assertion that Robert died without issue remains a mystery. One must note that the language in the 1774 deed is quite specific to the terms of James Bland's will of 1708. Further, it seems clear that David Bland was in control of land that had once been owned not only by Robert, but by his grandfather James, as well as his great uncles William and John.[1] How David Bland came into possession of the land James Bland deeded to his son Robert remains uncertain. Robert leased or bought 538 acres from John Diskin in Fairfax County (later Loudon) in 1753, which was two years before the death of his brother, James Bland. In order to raise money for the Fairfax property, he might have sold to James the 200 acres he was entitled to after his mother's death. Other information shows that Robert may have moved as early as 1748.[2] In either case, David Bland would have been a small child when these hypothetical transactions occurred. If, in occupying, leasing or purchasing the Diskin property in Fairfax County, Robert moved away from the Cock-Pitt Point land, there may have been some logically perceived confusion on the part of David Bland, leading him to state that Robert died without issue. By the above hypothesis, the 200 acres awarded by James to Robert would have been owned by James Bland (eighth generation) prior to his death, and

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1 This 1774 deed from David Bland to William Savage should reinforce the assertion I made earlier that the mere fact that John Bland (ninth generation) deeded to his son Osborne Bland (tenth generation) 100 acres of a 312-acre plot that was originally deeded to William Bland (eighth generation) does not prove or necessarily even suggest a parent-son relationship between William and John. It is evident, as stated earlier, that the most vital documents are the missing wills of William, James and John.

2 Cf. p. 489, note 3.

duly distributed to his grandson David. At that point, the heirs of Robert Bland (eighth generation) would have had no further claim to the land. David's assertion that Robert Bland died without issue, made in 1774 when Robert had indeed been dead for fourteen years, being no longer of interest to Robert's heirs, may have simply gone unnoticed.

These are my reasons for asserting that Robert Bland, who died in Loudon County in 1760, was the youngest of the eighth generation sons of James Bland (seventh generation). Little is known of his wife, Jane _____, except that she died about 1764.[1] Robert Bland and Jane were probably married in the late 1720's, but the precise date of their marriage is unknown. Information available in records indicates that their children included at least three sons (ninth generation), Edward, Robert and William, listed in the order of their birth.

William and Edward Bland (Ninth Generation)

The youngest of the three known sons of Robert and Jane Bland was William Bland, Evidently, he was incompetent, or still a minor as late as 1764, when Edward and Robert divided 40 acres of the home tract, without including William in the division.[2] Also, on December 24, 1771, Robert Bland (ninth generation) sold "the lot and late dwelling place"[3]

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1 Loudon County Deed Book D, p. 109, February 15, 1764. This deed concerns transfer of 40 acres between Edward and Robert Bland (ninth generation). UMB-I, p. 51, citing a letter from Mrs. C. F. Henley to Robert Linn Bland, dated 1907, indicates that title to this land previously had been shared by Jane, Edward and Robert Bland.

2 Ibid.

3 In a letter to Betty Bland Lovvorn, December 1, 1969, Berry Jewell Bland (fifteenth generation in this line) indicated that in his researches in South Carolina, he had been unable to turn up anything about William.

of William Bland, suggesting that he died, or moved away, probably the former. Thus, William appears to have been born sometime after 1743, and he died about 1771.

More information is available about Edward Bland, the eldest of the sons of Robert and Jane Bland.[1] His name is interesting, for in a ninth generation of men bearing monotonously names like William, James, John, Thomas and Robert, the name Edward stands out. Edward is usually said to have been born in 1730, or thereabouts.

Edward moved to South Carolina, probably before 1775,[2] and was listed among the first members of the Revolutionary Council of Safety.

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1 Loudon Deed Book L, August 11, 1775, pp. 1-5, makes reference to Jane and Edward Bland as heirs of Robert Bland (eighth generation).

2 Ibid. The fact that Robert, and not Edward, the eldest son, handle this transaction, indicates that Edward had left Virginia by 1775. It generally is thought that Edward and Robert Bland were the first Bland settlers in South Carolina, but that may not be so. John A. Chapman, History of Edgefield County: From the Earliest Settlements to 1897 (1897 hereafter referred to as Chapman, on p. 119 notes a deed signed by one George Bland June 17, 1772. Further, there was evidently a distinct Bland family in South Carolina, founded there during the 18th century, but related to neither the James River Blands, or the Stafford County Blands. See the Lebey-Bland-Courtney Genealogy #2542, filed at the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, N.C. The date of this genealogical document is not clear. The author, who also is not identified, indicates that the founder of this family was Lord Richard Percival Bland, with the improbable dates of 1627-1737, a resident of London. The birthdate is way off, for Richard Percival Bland and his wife, Elizabeth, had four children during a time span of 1728-1733, suggesting that Richard's birthdate was C.1700. Three of the four children, George (born 1728), Lancelot (born probably in 1731 or 1739, per LDS records), and Elizabeth, had no male children. The fourth child Richard, dates unknown, married Elizabeth Fendin, probably about 1770, and had a male child Richard (1771-1836), who married: (1) Claudia Harriet Capers (1776-1795), of which marriage there were no surviving children; (2) in 1797, Susan Cook (1780-1830), and issue from this marriage included Harriet Elizabeth (1798-1831), Harriet Philis (1799-?), Susan (1801-1824); Carolina (1806-1898); Beulah Isable (1809-1812), Isabelle Seraphina Augusta (1814-1837), Richard Mortimer (1816-1837), Charles Theodore (1819-1907), Demetrius Augustus (1821-1902). Descendants of these children remained in South Carolina and also migrated to Tryon, North Carolina, and parts of Georgia. No doubt there are living descendants of this line in South Carolina and Georgia areas today.

TABLE XXXI

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT BLAND OF FAIRFAX-LOUDON COUNTY, VIRGINIA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(6) Thomas Bland (C. 1634-1700)	=	(1) _____, about 1654. (2) Damaris Wyatt, in 1674.
(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708)	=	(1) _____. (2) Margaret _____.
(8) Robert Bland (C. 1703-1760)	=	Jane _____, about 1729.

(9-1)	(9-2)	(9-3)
Edward Bland (C. 1730-1800), married "Frankie," or Frances _____.	Robert Bland (1733-1787), married Ann _____ in 1757.	William Bland (-C. 1771)

------ Assumed.

TABLE XXXII

THE FAMILY OF ROBERT BLAND OF LOUDON COUNTY, VIRGINIA AND EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(7) James Bland (C. 1655-1708) = (1) _____.
(2) Margaret _____.

(8) Robert Bland (C. 1703-1760) = Jane _____, about 1729.

(9) Robert Bland (1733-1787) = Ann _____, in 1757.

(10-1)	(10-2)	(10-3)	(10-4)	(10-5)
Doshey Bland (1757-1765)	John Bland (1758-1781), married Mary _____.	Jane Bland (1762-1827) married John Darwin in 1783.	Mary Bland married Jacob Brown.	Presley Bland (1768-1839) married (1) _____; and (2) Martha Barrentine about 1800.

(10-6)	(10-7)	(10-8)	(10-9)	(10-10)
Wormley Bland (1771-1800), married Sarah Turner about 1790.	Elisha Bland (1775-)	Lyddia Bland (1778-)	Payton Bland (1780-)	James Bland (1783-)

He lived in York County, just outside what was the 96th district (see Map XXV). Edward was a witness to Robert Bland's will in Edgefield County, South Carolina, made in December 1786, and proved March 1787. The 1790 census showed that Edward was living in the 96th district of South Carolina, and was head of a household that included himself, two males over 16, two males under 16, three females, and five slaves.[1] My uncle, Berry Bland, indicated that he had found a copy of Edward Bland's will, probated June 9, 1800, and that in his will, Edward mentioned "Franky, my dearly beloved wife," and his son William, as well as two daughters, Dosha Bland and Elizabeth Deser. A son-in-law, James Plaxco, was named co-executor of Edward's will.[2] Nothing more is known by this author about Edward Bland.[3]

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1 Margaret Bland Magliocco, The Blands of Rutherford County, North Carolina (1978), p. 18. Citing South Carolina Historical and Genealogical Magazine, Vol. I-III, p. 196, and Heads of Families from the 1790 Census, Edgefield County, S.C. Margaret B. Magliocco is the daughter of Berry Jewell Bland, and is my first cousin. Hereafter in notes, her work will be referred to as Magliocco. Mary Wallace Day to Charles Bland, July 22, 1981, indicates Edward lived in York County, on the North Carolina border. Frances Bland is listed in the 1800 census, living in York County. Two Williams are listed in Edgefield County and Abbeville. One is undoubtedly the William Bland mentioned in Edward Bland's will. Identification of the other is uncertain, but he could be the William Bland assumed to have died in Loudon County in 1771; cf. pp. 493-494.

2 Berry Bland to Betty Lovvorn, et al., December 1, 1969.

3 Some insight into Edward Bland might be supplied by access to a book by Bryce White, Jr., of Rock Hill, South Carolina, who was co-author of a book on the Plaxco-Robinson Family (1958). According to Olivia McCluney, Edward Bland is briefly discussed in the book. Olivia McCluney to Mary Wallace Day, May 24, 1978.

Robert Bland (Ninth Generation)

The second son of Robert and Jane Bland (eighth generation) was Robert Bland, who was born March 9, 1733/1734,[1] in Prince William County, Virginia. His will was made December 21, 1786, and was proved March 27, 1787. His dates then appear to be 1733-1787, and since his birthdate was old style, he lived to be about 53. Robert's name began to appear in the Loudon County, Virginia records after his father's death in 1760. Most of these have been discussed previously but there is no harm in repeating the information. In 1764, he was on the tax rolls and was a recipient of 40 acres with his brother Edward, who deeded the land to him "for love and affection."[2] In 1771, Robert sued a man named McCollister in Fairfax County.[3] In 1775, Robert bought from Robert Johnson a tract of 85 acres in Loudon County that had formerly belonged to his father and was adjacent to some 538 acres then in Robert's possession. From this latter deed, it appears that Robert's brother Edward had already gone to South Carolina. Then in 1778, Robert sold the 538 acres that his father had purchased from John Diskin in 1741, and moved away to South Carolina with his wife and their first eight children.

Once in South Carolina, Robert may have settled near his brother in York County, but moved to the Saluda River area soon after and joined the revolutionary forces as a private. Family tradition has it that

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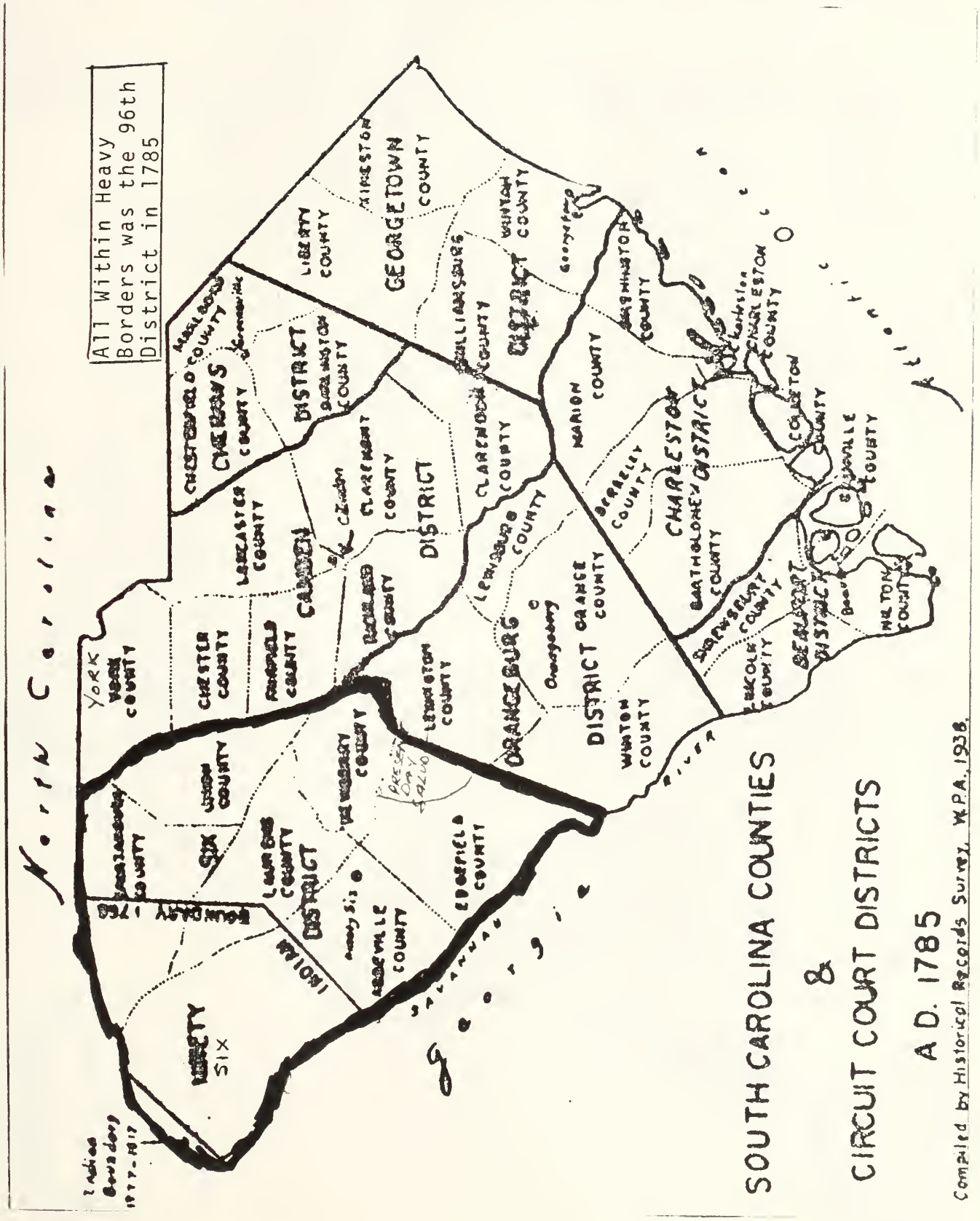
1 Darwin-Bland Bible, contributed to the Tennessee State Library and Archives, MS.AC. 67-85, by Dero A. Darwin, of Cookesville, Tennessee. Hereafter, this document will be referred to as Darwin. Cf. Dero Darwin to Nel Ford, November 24, 1958.

2 Loudon County Deed Book D, February 15, 1764, p. 109.

3 Fairfax County Order Book, 1749-1772, p. 308.

MAP XVI


All Within Heavy Borders was the 96th District in 1785
North Carolina
Georgia
Atlantic Ocean
SOUTH CAROLINA COUNTIES
&
CIRCUIT COURT DISTRICTS
A.D. 1785
Compiled by Historical Records Survey, W.P.A. 1938.
GEORGETOWN COUNTY
CHERAWS COUNTY
DISTRICT
CAMDEN
DISTRICT
ORANGEBURG
DISTRICT
CHARLESTON DISTRICT
BEAUFORT DISTRICT
LIBERTY COUNTY
WINTON COUNTY
CLARENDON COUNTY
MARION COUNTY
BERKELEY COUNTY
BARTHOLOMEW COUNTY
COLLETON COUNTY
CHARLESTON COUNTY
YORK COUNTY
CHESTER COUNTY
LANCASTER COUNTY
CLARENDON COUNTY
LEXINGTON COUNTY
ORANGE COUNTY
WINTON COUNTY
SIX
INDIAN
BOUNDARY 1768
LIBERTY SIX
SAVANNAH RIVER

MAP XVII

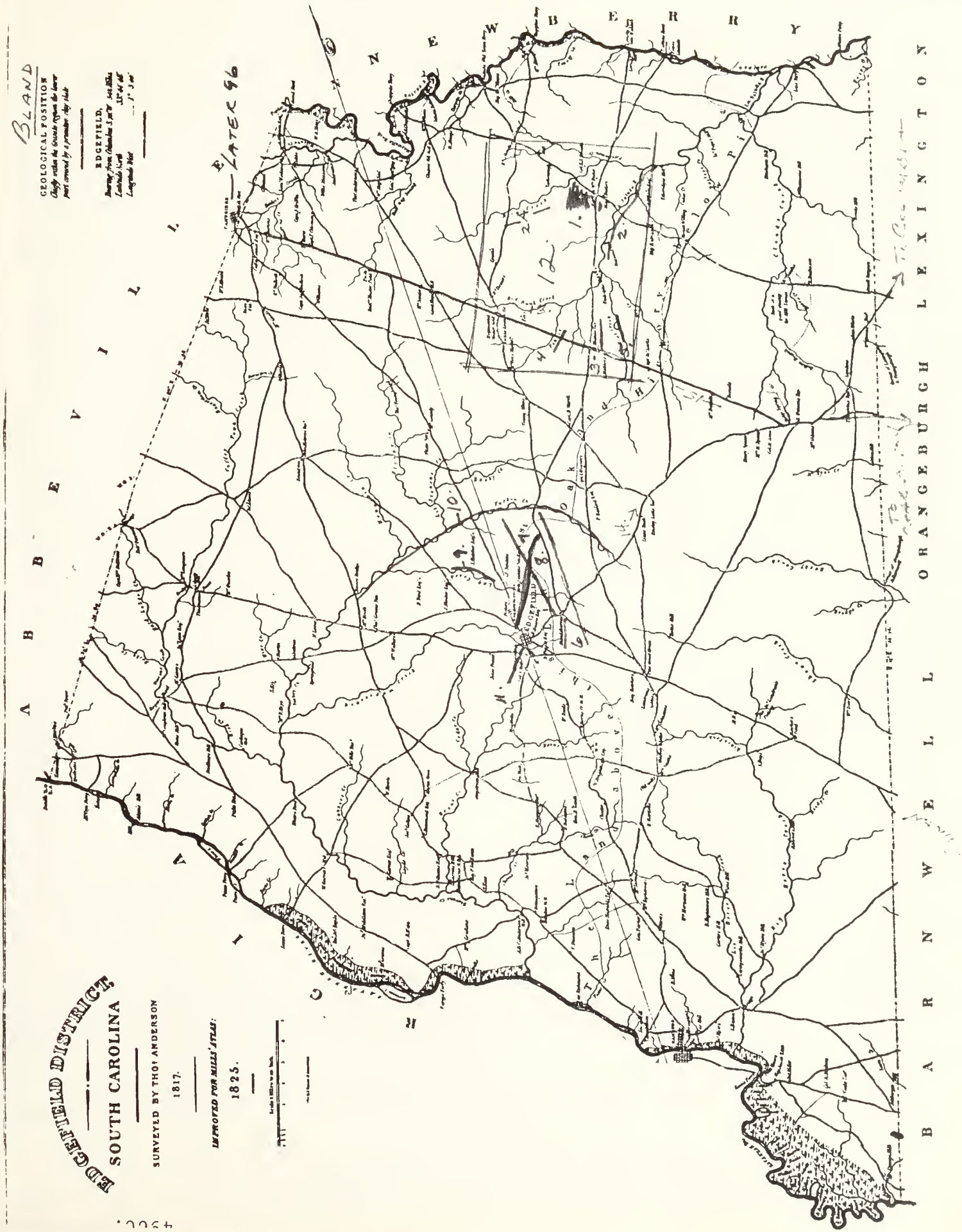
EDGEFIELD DISTRICT, SOUTH CAROLINA, C. 1825

Edgefield District, as shown, included all of present day Edgefield and Saluda Counties and parts of McCormick, Greenwood and Aiken Counties.

Key to Notes Supplied by Mary Wallace Day:

1. Ann Bland, wife of Robert Bland (ninth generation), 1790.
2. The little Saluda River.
3. Presley Bland's Tavern.
4. and 5. Location of land owned by Presley Bland.
6. Blandsborough, no longer in existence.
7. and 8. Presley and Avory Bland owned land on both sides of Center Spring Road.
9. Log Creek.
10. Turkey Creek.
11. Town of Edgefield.
12. Robert Bland and his wife Ann moved to this area of Edgefield County. Presley, Wormley and James Bland (tenth generation) also held land in this area and Presley had land in the town of Edgefield. In 1891, this area became Saluda County. (See Map .)
13. Red Bank Creek.
14. Present day Johnston, South Carolina.
15. The road to Charleston via "The Ridge."
16. Ridge Spring on "The Ridge."

Map XVII


EDGEFIELD DISTRICT,
SOUTH CAROLINA
SURVEYED BY THOS ANDERSON
1817.
IMPROVED FOR MILLS' ATLAS:
1825.
GEOLOGICAL POSITION
EDGEFIELD.
BLAND
LATER 96
ABBEVILLE
NEWBERRY
ORANGEBURGH
LEXINGTON
BARNWELL
EDGEFIELD

he and his son John were captured by the Tories. John was killed at at place called Cloud Creek by one Cunningham, on November 17, 1781. Robert, himself badly treated by the Tories, was concerned for his family's safety and moved them away from the 96th District temporarily.[1] For his service during the Revolution, Robert received a bounty grant of 300 acres on October 4, 1784.[2] By that time, he must have moved his family back to Edgefield County, where he died early in 1787.

Because a number of children, grandchildren, Robert's wife and other relations are listed in his will, it is quoted substantially as a preliminary to discussion of his family.

> In the name of God, Amen. I, Robert Bland, of Edgefield County in South Carolina, and Ninety-six District, yeoman...do make and constitute this my last will and testament in manner following...
>
> All of my whole estate, real and personal (several words illegible) hundred acres of land or the value thereof, I give to my grandson Mycaja Bland, son of John Bland and Mary his wife...the plantation where I live, and one hundred and fifty acres of the most (liiegible) of the land, joining this plantation, and all of the moveable estate (illegible) to my wife as long as she doth remain a widow, then after her death or marriage, to be equally divided among the children, all but 150 acres of land that I give to my youngest son James Bland. Fifty acres of land I give to Liddey, and the rest of the land to be equally divided amongst the boys as follows: Presley, Woromley, Elishea, and Payton, but all the moveable estate to be equally divided amongst all the children, girls and boys, and I do here...appoint my wife, Ann Bland, one of my executors, and Joseph Nun and Solomon Pope executors of this my last will and testament. In witness whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and seal this 21st day of December, Anno Dom. 1786...[3]

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1 Kate Duncan Smith to Mrs. Earley, March 6 and 19, 1920. Mrs. Smith's information about the killing of John Bland and the mistreatment of his father Robert was derived from a letter to her from J. E. Edwards, February 11, 1899.

2 DAR application of Kate Duncan Smith, National Number 6438, approved November 4, 1932.

3 Will of Robert Bland, December 21, 1786, proved March 27, 1787, filed Box 11, Pack 208, Edgefield County, S.C. Witnesses were Edward Bland, Robert's brother, and Samuel Bland, possibly a son of Edward.

According to the Darwin Bible record of Robert Bland's family, he married on April 10, 1757, probably in what was then Fairfax County, Virginia. His wife was Ann _____. There is no record of her maiden name, although some writers have assumed it was Wormley. [1] The same sources also establish an approximate birthdate of 1735 for Ann, but inasmuch as her youngest child was born in 1783, it is probable that the date should be adjusted to about 1740. Traces of her are found in the Edgefield County records for 1787, 1788, 1792, 1796, 1799 and 1800.[2] The distribution of ages in the census for the household of Presley Bland suggests she might have been living with him in 1810.

The Darwin Bible record included the following dates of birth and death for the children (tenth generation) of Robert Bland and Ann _____:

1. Doshey Bland, born October 26, 1757, and died December 13, 1765.*
2. John Bland, born March 4, 1758, and killed November 17, 1781.
3. Jane Bland was born January 2, 1762.
4. Mary Bland was born December 16, 1763.
5. Presley Bland was born February 16, 1768.
6. Wormley Bland was born February 17, 1771.

---

1 The assumption was made by UMB-I, p. 53, and in various communications by Homer Jones to Nel Ford. I have never seen any document that proves Ann's maiden name, and as Kate Duncan Smith pointed out years ago, it might as well have been Payton or Presley. Cf. Kate Duncan Smith to Mrs. Earley, March 6, 1920.

2 Cf. Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 13, pp. 54, 60, and Deed Book 2, pp. 129-133. Sent to the author in original form by Mary Wallace Day, of Dunmovin, Georgia, in letter dated July 7, 1981.

* Doshey is listed second behind John Bland in the original Bible record, although her recorded birth is 1757, and John's is 1758. The character of the handwriting of her birth year, 1757, however, is identical to the writing of Robert and Ann's marriage date, also in 1757.

7. Elisha Bland was born April 9, 1775.

8. Lyddia Bland was born May 2, 1778.

9. Payton Bland was born January 1, 1780.

10. James Bland was born November 29, 1783.

I will discuss the daughters of Robert and Ann Bland first, then the sons, excluding Presley and Wormley. Finally, distinct sections will address the lives and families of Presley and Wormley Bland.

The Daughters of Robert Bland (Tenth Generation)

Setting aside Doshey Bland (1757-1765), the eldest daughter who died as a child, the first daughter who survived to adulthood was Jane Bland. Born in 1762, Jane Bland, according to Dero Darwin, "departed this life March 10, 1827, about 9 o'clock at night." Jane married John Darwin (1753-1837) on March 11, 1783. This marriage produced at least two lines of descent from Robert and Ann Bland, Nel Ford and Kate Duncan Smith.[1]

Mary Bland (tenth generation) was born December 16, 1763. She married Jacob Brown of Edgefield County, who participated in the

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[1] The eldest child of John Darwin and Jane Bland was (eleventh generation) Nancy Darwin (1784-1847). Nancy married Jeptha Harrington (1775-1865), and among their offspring was (twelfth generation) McCager Harrington (1800-1884), who married Mary Robertson (1802-1885) in 1821. McCager Harrington and Mary Robertson had a son, Abel Lancaster Harrington (1832-1898, thirteenth generation) who married Elizabeth Guyton (1841-1912). This couple had a daughter, Minnie Harrington, who married Braxton Chester Westbrook, and their daughter (fifteenth generation) was Nel Westbrook, who married George Ford and now lives in Columbus, Mississippi. Nancy Darwin and Jeptha Harrington (eleventh generation) also had a daughter Rachel (twelfth generation, 1818-1890) who married Daniel Duncan (1803-1891). They were the parents of Kate Duncan, who married J. Morgan Smith. Cf. UMB-1, p. 55. Urilla Bland states: "Parenthetically, it may be said that the DAR School of Grant, Alabama was named for Kate Duncan Smith."

inventory of the property of Robert Bland (ninth generation). Lyddia Bland, undoubtedly the "Liddy" Bland mentioned in her father's will, is a mystery. Nothing more about her is known to this author.

John, Elisha, Payton and James Bland (Tenth Generation)

John Bland, the eldest son of Robert and Ann Bland, was born March 4, 1758 and was, according to family legend, killed by the Tories on November 17, 1781. John married Mary _____, when is uncertain.

Because of his early death, John and Mary had only one child, a son Micajah Bland (eleventh generation) who was born probably about 1780, and appears to have been a favorite of his grandfather Robert. Micajah appears to have moved to Mason County, Kentucky, where on September 24, 1804, he married Milly Martin, a daughter of Edmund Martin.[1] Micajah was in Mayville, Kentucky on May 22, 1826,[2] but must have died later that year, for when his daughter Mary married, Milly Bland signed as bond. Thus, Micajah's approximate dates are C.1780-1826. Micajah Bland and Milly Martin, according to Mrs. James, had a family of four children, including a son John, about whom nothing more is known. Mary Bland, on November 21, 1826, married Samuel Cochran in Mason County, with her mother consenting. Pamela Bland married John Cochrell February 27, 1828, in Mason County. Celesta Ann Bland married Demsey Carrell on April 8, 1847.[3]

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1 Jessamine Bland James, Bland Family Court and Bible Records (undated), p. 12.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

Beyond the recorded information about their birth dates, very little is known about Elisha, Payton or James Bland. Elisha was living when his father formed his will in 1786. Payton, whose name may have been taken from the neighbor of Robert Bland (eighth generation) who was a candidate for Prince William Burgess in 1741, signed as co-administrator for the estate of his brother Wormley in 1800, and also was identified in the 1800 census. He again appears in the census of 1810 for Edgefield, as head of a household that included a wife and two small children. He appears in the 1840 census, residing in the Barnwell District. The name James appears again in Edgefield in 1840, but whether this is the same James, a son or some other relative, is unknown.

Primarily, little information is available about these three sons, as well as John, because, to this author's knowledge, they have no historians. That is not true in the case of Presley and Wormley Bland, to whose stories I now turn.[1]

Presley Bland (Tenth Generation)

Presley Bland was born February 16, 1768, according to the family Bible. He died November 11, 1839, aged seventy-one.[2] Presley made a minor reputation for himself in Edgefield County, and some literary evidences of him are found in county histories. John Chapman, for example, identifies him as a strong nullifier, with little tolerance for "submissionists" (a partisan appellation . Presley would have

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[1] Both names lend themselves to the wildest kinds of variations of spelling. I follow the spelling as it appeared in the Darwin Bible record.

[2] Carlos T. McClendon, Ed. Edgefield Death Notices and County Records (1977), p. 25; Edgefield Advertiser, November 28, 1839.

revered John C. Calhoun and would have despised Andrew Jackson. Nullifiers believed that the individual states were sovereign and that right to sovereignty took precedence over national unity.) Presley never held a political office, but he did qualify as constable in 1795.[1] Presley owned a tavern also, and no doubt did some of his best nullification thinking while there. Chapman relates a rumor that Presley would from time to time tie one on in neighboring Aiken. When ready to leave, "inspired by the influence of John Barley Corn," (drunk, in other words), Presley would mount his horse and gallop away, "singing at the top of his voice."

> Barnwell District; Aiken Town.
> O Lord have mercy, do look down.
> The land is poor, the people too.
> If they don't steal, what will they do?[2]

We might expect that Chapman, in the tradition of county historians, gussied things up just a tiny bit for the sake of posterity, if not for the reading sensibilities of little children. One has a very happy image of Presley, red nosed and hanging half off his horse as he quits the Aiken tavern. What the folk in Aiken thought about all these insults is not a matter of record, but since he was in effect calling them poor white trash, and thieves to boot, one wonders how long he got by with the same jingle. Presley was what in the south they call a good ole boy. Although he was only a child when the American Revolution unfolded, he is said to have had many a story about that great struggle and was a true raconteur in the telling of them.

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1 Chapman, p. 77, and Magliocco, p. 20.

2 Ibid.

His obituary notice said "he died as he had lived, a Whig, true to the principles of '76."[1] Good for him! I'd love to hear old Pres' tell about how the Tories murdered his brother John. I'll bet if you travel a ways east of Edgefield toward the Saluda River and stand still and quiet long enough, you can still hear him laughing.

Presley Bland married Martha Barrentine sometime before 1800,[2] and perhaps before Martha, married a woman whose identity is unknown.[3] Two researchers, Margaret Bland Magliocco, of New Jersey, and Mary Wallace Day, of Dunmovin, Georgia, both of whom descend from Robert Bland (ninth generation), have done research on the family of Presley Bland. The conclusions reached by Mrs. Day and Mrs. Magliocco are essentially alike, but different in some important respects. Margaret Magliocco indicates that Presley Bland married Martha Barrentine, with no reference to a first wife, and that they had the following children:[4]

Name	Birthdate
Avory	1792
Luke	1794
John	1797 *
Sampson	1801
Randall	1804
Emily	1807
Mary	1809
Martha	1811
Caroline	1813

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1 Edgefield Advertiser, November 28, 1839.

2 Mary Wallace Day, "Presley Bland and Avory Bland," May 2 and 8, 1979. Mrs. Day has sent me information showing that Martha and Presley conveyed land in 1800. John Milton Quarles to Mrs. William N. Gressette, June 14, 1971, index of Bland names in deeds. Hereafter referred to as Quarles.

3 Ibid. Mrs. Day feels strongly, without absolute proof, that Presley's son Avory, from whom Mrs. Day descends, was the child of a marriage by Presley that was antecedent to Martha Barrentine.

* John's descendant, Bland Goodwin, of Augusta, Georgia, thinks John was born C.1815.

4 Magliocco, p. 20. Margaret provides no source for this information. The order of birth for the children is approximately true, but the birthdates are problematical.

Mrs. Day feels that Avory Bland was a half-brother to the other children, and assumes that Avory was Presley's first child, and that the next eldest child was Randall, demonstrably born in 1804. In view of the twelve-year gap between Avory and Randall, Mrs. Day believes Avory may have been the child of a first wife of Presley, who died soon after Avory's birth. Presley would have remained unmarried for several years before marrying Martha about 1799-1800.

Information used by Mrs. Magliocco as well as Mrs. Day, who relies upon the 1850 census as well as empirical sources, conflicts at key points with both the 1810 and 1820 censuses, which should have reflected the evolving composition of Presley's family. Presley's family in the 1810 census is recorded thus:

> One male 26-45 (Presley, who was 42).
> One female 26-45 (Martha).
> One female over 45 (Ann, widow of Robert Bland, Presley's mother; or Martha's mother).
> One male 16-26 (Avory, who was 18).
> One male under 10 (Sampson, who was recorded in the 1850 census as being born in 1805. But this leaves no room for Randall, born in 1804).
> Two females under 10 (Mary, born in 1809, according to Mrs. Magliocco, and Emily, born in 1808, according to the 1850 census).[1]

Discrepancies abound. If Margaret Magliocco's figures are right, there is no room for Luke or John Bland, although one might assume that Avory, then 18, was living away from home and that the male aged 16-26 was Luke. John may be explained by the assumption of one of his descendants that he was born in 1815, but that also causes problems. His descendant, Bland Goodwin Jr., indicates that his full name was John Prestley Bland, and a name like that would certainly indicate that

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[1] 1810 Census for Presley Bland's household, provided the author by Mary Wallace Day.

he was a son of Presley. But then in 1823, John Prestley Bland was engaged in a land transaction with Andrew Bates,[1] hardly possible for an eight year old child. Then too, the 1820 enumeration of Presley's family is confusing as that of 1810:

> One male over 45 (Presley was 52).
> One male 18-26 (Luke; Avory was already married.)
> One male 10-16 (Sampson, born in 1805; but what about Randall?)
> Two males under 10 (possibly John, but see discussion above. The other male child is uncertain.)
> Two females 10-16 (Emily and Mary).
> Three females under 10 (Martha, born 1819; Carolina, born 1820; third daughter may have died young.)[2]

Several points are worth mentioning. Caroline told the 1850 census taker that she was born in 1822, but Martha is not present in the 1820 census, indicating that she was dead by then. This could be reconciled if other information could show that Caroline simply lied about her age to the 1850 census taker (surely she was not the first woman to dread turning 30). Also, the older woman living in Presley's household in 1810, assumed to be his mother Ann, or Martha's mother, was gone in 1820.

Fortunately, there is other information about Presley's children to indicate the errors in these two census readings. My own theory, which is about as accurate as others I've seen, is that the census taker was a "submissionist" from Aiken, who wrote down the census information in Presley's tavern. At any rate, in his will of 1839, Presley mentioned all of his living children except Avory:

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1 Quarles.

2 1820 Census for Presley Bland, supplied the author by Mary Wallace Day.

State of South Carolina
Edgefield District

In the Name of God, Amen.

I, Presley Bland, of State and District aforesaid... do hereby make and ordain this my last will and testament...

Item 1 - I give ... unto my son John, my present residence, consisting of the plantation I now cultivate and composed of several adjacent tracts of oaky lands, and I also ... devise unto my son John, a moiety of my pine lands, all in the fee simple forever.

Item 2 - I give ... to my son Sampson, the other moiety of my pine land, in fee simple forever.

Item 3 - I give ... to my son Luke, one hundred dollars, and am sorry that his conduct for a length of time past prevents me from doing more for him.

Item 4 - After payment of all my just debts, I give ... to my other children, vis, Sampson Bland, John Bland, Emily Christie, Mary Bryant, Martha Bland and Caroline Bland, all the rest and remainder of my estate, <u>including the property put into the possession of my married children as certified by the parties</u>, to be equally divided, share and share alike ... and in case of the decease of either of my children without living issue, the property to be returned to my executors or executor, and equally divided between the legatees named in the fourth item, or their heirs.[1]

Seven children are mentioned in this will. Excluded were Randall Bland, who died in 1829, and Avory Bland. Randall Bland left a will dated May 8, 1829, in which he left his entire estate to and made executor Avory Bland, whom he called "my brother."[2] Randall was buried in Avory Bland's family cemetery, with an inscription which read, "In memory of R. W. Bland, who departed this life May 9, 1829, aged 25 years."[3]

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1 The will of Presley Bland was provided by John Bland Mobley, of Columbia, South Carolina.

2 <u>Ibid</u>. The source of Randall's will is <u>Edgefield Will Book C</u>, p. 29

3 Mary Wallace Day, "Presley Bland and Avory Bland."

It is certain that Presley was married to Martha Barrentine, presumed mother of Randall Bland, by 1800, and Randall called Avory his brother. Of course, he could simply mean that he was a half-brother, for as noted inter alia in the foregoing pages, such sharp distinctions were seldom made. But Avory was not mentioned in Presley Bland's will. Why? One explanation might be that Avory, who as will be shown presently, was one of the most wealthy men in Edgefield County, did not especially need a bequest from his father, or perhaps, as Mrs. Day suggests, since Avory had left home about 1820 or before, his father may have given him his share of land at that time. Alternately, Presley and Avory may have been alienated.

Similarly, Luke Bland, Presley's unfavored son, died intestate in 1851. When Luke died, he left behind a widow but no children, five full siblings who were alive, and nieces and nephews who were children of one sister who was dead by 1851. Thus, in accordance with South Carolina law at the time, Luke's estate, valued at $2,152, was divided, one-half to his widow, Rebecca, and the other half divided equally ($179 each) between his full brothers John and Sampson, his full sisters, Emily Christie, Martha Dean and Caroline Prater, and the children of his by then deceased sister Mary Bryan. Avory Bland was not included, and South Carolina law specified there would be no assignment to a half-brother unless there were no full siblings. Avory Bland was, however, a recipient of $179 as a trustee for Caroline Prater when the estate was settled in January 1853.[1]

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[1] I am grateful to Mary Wallace Day for Edgefield Equity Case 793, Sampson Bland and Others vs. Simeon Christie and Wife, November 6, 1851; Edgefield Box 63, Package 2591, Estate of Luke Bland, November 10, 1851, settled on January 1, 1853. Mrs. Day also obtained a copy of applicable contemporary law for a case such as Luke Bland's; exchange between Mary Wallace Day and Joseph Russell Cross Jr., Coleman Karesh Law Library, University of South Carolina.

This legal document makes a formidable case for Mrs. Day's belief that Avory was a half-brother of all Presley's other children. That Avory was a son of Presley Bland may be attested from a letter written in 1899 to Kate Duncan Smith by J. E. Edwards, who was an acquaintance of Avory and said that he was Presley's son.[1] Similarly, Avory's obituary, which appeared in the Edgefield Advertiser soon after his death, identified Avory as a son of Presley Bland.[2]

All of the foregoing has been written to demonstrate the probability that Presley Bland married twice, first to an unknown woman about 1791, by whom he had a son, Avory Bland, and second, about 1799-1800 to Martha Barrentine, by whome he had eight additional children who survived to adulthood. These children were eleventh generation. I would like to discuss first the daughters of Presley Bland, then his sons.

The Daughters of Presley Bland

Among the four daughters for whom information is available, the eldest was Emily Bland, who was born about 1808. Emily married Simeon Christie, probably about 1835. By 1850, Simeon Christie and Emily Bland had a family of six children, including John, aged 14; Mark, aged 12; Mary, aged 9; Sarah, aged 7; Emma, aged 5; and Pierce, aged 2. Simeon Christie held real estate valued at $13,000 in 1850, and was enumerated as the district sheriff. The second daughter of Presley Bland and Martha Barrentinewas Mary Bland, who according to Mrs. Magliocco was born in 1809. Census records confirming this information were not

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1 Quoted in Mrs. Smith's letter to Mrs. Earley, March 19, 1920.

2 Mary Wallace Day, "Presley Bland and Avory Bland," citing the Edgefield Advertiser, for April 8, 1857.

TABLE XXXIII

THE FAMILY OF PRESLEY BLAND OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(8) Robert Bland (C. 1703-1760) = Jane _____, about 1729.

(9) Robert Bland (1733-1787) = Ann _____, in 1757.

(10) Presley Bland (1768-1839) = (1) _____, about 1791.
(2) Martha Barrentine (-C. 1820), about 1800.

By Presley's First Wife:

(11-1)
Avory Bland (1792-1857), married Mary Johnson (1804-1839) about 1819.

By Martha Barrentine:

(11-1)
John Prestley Bland (C.1801-1889), married Martha A. Cogburn (1814-1868).

(11-2)
Randall Bland (1804-1829), did not marry.

(11-3)
Sampson Bland (1805-) married Adaline _____.

(11-4)
Luke Bland (C.1806-1851), married Rebecca _____.

(11-5)
Emily Bland (1808-) married Simeon Christie.

(11-6)
Mary Bland (C.1809-), married R. D. Bryan.

(11-7)
Martha Bland (1819-) married Aaron Deene.

(11-8)
Caroline Bland (C.1820-) married _____ Prater.

TABLE XXXIV

THE FAMILY OF AVORY BLAND OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(9) Robert Bland (1733-1787) = Ann _____ in 1757.

(10) Presley Bland (1768-1839) = (1) _____ about 1791.
(2) Martha Barrentine, about 1800.

(11) Avory Bland (1792-1857) = Mary Johnson (1804-1839) about 1819.

(12-1)	(12-2)	(12-3)
Johnson Avory Bland (1821-1884), married Sarah Watson (1833-1882) about 1851.	Elbert R. Bland (1823-1863), married Emmaline Rebecca Griffin (1835-1891) in 1854.	Mary Ann Bland (1825-1865), married John Smyley in 1840.

(12-4)	(12-5)	(12-6)
Randall Bland (1829-1849), did not marry.	George Bland (1830-).	Harriet Bland (1831-), married (1) Stanmore Holstein; (2) William Logue; (3) Lawrence Johnson.

available to this author. Little is known about her, but she married R. D. Bryan, as is reflected in the settlement of her brother Luke's estate in 1851, by which time Mary was dead. R. D. Bryan and Mary were parents of six children, including: James. Luke, William, Robert, Martha and Ellen. Their ages are not known. The third eldest daughter was Martha Bland who, according to the 1850 census, was born in 1818 or 1819. She married Aaron C. Deene, probably about 1844. In the 1850 census for Edgefield County, Deene was enumerated as a farmer with property valued at $1,750. Aaron Deene and Martha Bland had a known family of two children in 1850, including Arthur, aged 5, and Emma, aged 1. The youngest daughter of Presley Bland and Martha Barrentine was Caroline, or Carolina, who was probably born about 1819 or 1820. As noted earlier,[1] Caroline may have shaved off a few years from her stated age in the 1850 census, where she is shown to be 28, or born in 1822, an impossibility, assuming that Martha Barrentine was dead by the time of the 1820 census.

John, Sampson and Luke Bland (Eleventh Generation)

Among the sons of Presley Bland, Randall Bland (1804-1829) has been previously discussed.[2] The ages of the subsequent sons who were the natural children of Martha Barrentine, are somewhat problematical. Sampson's birth year is fixed by the 1850 census as 1805. Mrs. Magliocco fixes the birth years of Luke and John Bland as 1794 and 1797 respectively, which makes no sense if Presley did not marry Martha Barrentine

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1 Cf. p. 505.

2 Cf. p. 506.

until 1799-1800. The guide to their approximate ages that I will follow is that their order of birth follows the order of mention in Presley Bland's will. In this assumption, John would probably have been born about 1801, Sampson was born in 1805, and Luke would have been born in 1806/1807.

Thus, the eldest son of Presley Bland and Martha Barrentine probably was John Bland, born about 1801.[1] A correspondent, Bland Goodwin, indicates that John Prestley Bland was born July 31, 1815 and died in 1889.[2] Yet such an assertion does not square with the fact that a John Prestley Bland also was involved in a legal transaction in 1823. John Bland was known as Colonel, and it appears that by 1840 he had moved his family away from Edgefield County. He was reported by Mr. Goodwin to have died in Charleston, South Carolina. John married Martha Adaway Cogburn (September 18, 1814 to June 28, 1868) in Edgefield County. They were parents of ten children (twelfth generation):

1) John Prestley Bland Jr. Mr. Goodwin cites no further information about him. 2) Susan Bland, who died at age seven of scarlet fever. 3) Harriet Bland, who was burned to death at age 4. 4) Juliann* Carolina Bland, who married Martin Hook, survived him, and remarried to _____ Gossett, of Birmingham, Alabama. 5) Mattie, or Martha Bland, was born in 1845, and died in 1864 of typhoid fever. 6) Lawrence Nathan Bland was born July 10, 1845, and died June 30, 1902. On April 1, 1865, Larry's father, Colonel John Bland, received a letter from Lieutenant E. H. Covar, a subordinate officer in Company A, 7th South Carolina

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1 Bland Goodwin Jr. to Charles Bland, October 14, 1981. Mr. Goodwin wrote his belief that his ancestor, John Prestley Bland, was one of the sons of Presley Bland's brothers. I must acknowledge here that I may be juxtaposing persons incorrectly. Naming patterns, however, suggest a pattern of relationships in which children are named for aunts and uncles.

2 Ibid.

* Spelling uncertain.

Regiment, ultimately commanded by General Longstreet, which reported that Lawrence had been killed in action on March 13, 1865. As it turned out, some six months later the family of Colonel John Bland discovered that Lawrence had not been killed at all, but had been imprisoned at Camp Lookout. Prior to his imprisonment, Lawrence had married Frances Ann McDaniel (1846-1937) on December 15, 1864.[1] 7) Elizabeth Ellen Bland married a Scotsman, William McArthur. 8) Mary Emma Bland married Dr. Bernard Scott Bennett, who was born in Spencer County, Kentucky. 9) Laura Cornelia Bland married Monroe Hariston of Atlanta, Georgia. 10) Pierce Butler Bland married a girl from Charleston, South Carolina, name unknown.

Sampson Bland (eleventh generation) was the third known son of Presley Bland and Martha Barrentine (Randall was second). He was, according to the 1850 census, born in 1805. When he died is uncertain to this author, but he was still living in 1853 when his brother Luke's estate was settled. In the 1850 census Sampson was enumerated as a teamster with real estate valued at $300. Compared to his half-brother Avory Bland, or his brother-in-law Simeon Christie, Sampson was a pauper, one of the paradoxes of the children of Presley Bland. Sampson Bland married Adaline _____ probably about 1834. The children of Sampson and Adaline Bland were (twelfth generation): Martha, born in 1835; Francis P. Bland, 1837; Mary Bland, 1840; Eliza Bland, born 1843; James Bland, born 1845; Emily Bland, born in 1847; and Luke Bland, born in 1849 or 1850.

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[1] Lawrence Bland (twelfth generation) and Frances McDaniel had a daughter, Mary Alice Bland, born February 24, 1873, who in 1890 married Joseph Ferdinand Goodwin. They were the parents of two children, including Jarrel Bland Goodwin, born 1891, who married Annie Leuvenia Parker in Augusta, Georgia, in 1918. They were the parents of Jarrell Bland Goodwin Jr., born in 1920, my correspondent.

The fourth son of Presley Bland and Martha Barrentine was Luke Bland. According to my calculations, he was born about 1806 or 1807, and he died in 1851. He married Rebecca _____[1] who was his widow in settlement of his estate. As the estate settlement indicated, Luke and Rebecca Bland had no children.

Avory Bland (Eleventh Generation)

The eldest son of Presley Bland, probably by a wife who was antecedent to Martha Barrentine, was Avory Bland.[2] Avory was buried at his burial plot in Edgefield County and his tombstone states, "Avory Bland was born October 27, 1792 and died February 7, 1857." Avory Bland was by any account, a very substantial plantation owner. In the 1850 census, his worth in real estate was valued at $40,000. A rough calculation is that in his will he dispensed some 4800 acres of land and 110 slaves among his surviving children. The circumstances that brought Avory to such wealth are somewhat obscure. Presley Bland was a fairly well off man, but in no way could have left Avory the kind of wealth he possessed at his death. And as I have already noted, there was no precedent among Avory's uncles or grandfather for such wealth, and in some cases, his siblings (e.g., Sampson), had no wealth at all. The most plausible reason for Avory's wealth is that he married Mary Johnson, probably about 1819 or 1820. Mary, born 1804 and died September 24, 1839, was the daughter of Moore Johnson, who died in 1835, leaving behind a

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1 Names associated with the settlement of the estate were Cogburn, and Smyley and Barrington (spelled Barronton, perhaps Barrentine). All names are associated with Presley's family.

2 For the record, I am convinced that Presley and Avory were father and son.

substantial estate, and Mary also was a sister to Sophia Johnson, who married first a man named Pow, and secondly Ellzey Bland, son of Wormley Bland (to be discussed presently).[1] The children (twelfth generation) of Avory Bland and Mary Johnson were as follows:

The eldest child of Avory Bland and Mary Johnson was Johnson Avory Bland, who was born July 14, 1821, and died January 13, 1884. Upon the death of Avory Bland in 1857, Johnson Avory inherited 1,415 acres and twenty-two slaves.[2] He married Sarah A. Watson, a Catholic, who was born August 9, 1833 and died July 31, 1882. Johnson Avory Bland and Sarah Watson had a family of twelve children (thirteenth generation), including:

1) Sophia Alice Bland (June 23, 1852-October 1, 1897) who married on December 19, 1872, James Furman Mobley.[3] 2) Arthur Simkins Bland, who was born April 12, 1854 and died in January 1888. He married Mamie Bolton on April 18, 1877. Mamie and their only child were killed while riding on horseback. 3) Avory Bland, who was born January 25, 1857 and died July 17, 1900. Avory married Ella Wright on November 6, 1888, and by her had a family of three children: Avory, Julia and Burt. 4) Elbert W. Bland was born September 16, 1858, and died November 25, 1894. Elbert never married. 5) Catherine Smyly Bland was born April 26, 1860, and died June 29, 1903. She married John Edner Schumper on December 20, 1882 and had children by him. 6) Emma Rosa Bland, born March 9, 1861, and the date of her death is uncertain. She married first, H.H.B. Wilson, and second, _____ Parker on December 27, 1887. 7) Frank Stanford Bland

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1 Mary Wallace Day, The Estate of Moore Johnson (May 1979).

2 The will of Avory Bland, January 13, 1857.

3 This couple were grandparents of John Bland Mobley, a correspondent from Columbia, South Carolina.

was born September 6, 1862 and died at an uncertain date. He married Laura Wright on April 26, 1888. Their children were Louise, Sally and Frank Bland. 8) Rebecca Elberta Bland was born September 26, 1863 and died in the 1880's. There is no record that she married. 9) Johnson Avory Bland Jr., nicknamed Johnny, was born March 27, 1864. The date of his death was unknown. He married Lillian Sawyer and they had John A., Frances, K., Earl S., Thelma, Madge and Olin. 10-12) Martha Lucretia Bland was born November 20, 1865 and died July 9, 1866; Walter Hill Bland was born July 21, 1870 and died in the 1880's (he never married); William Bland was born May 3, 1872, and nothing more is known to this author about him.[1]

The second child of Avory Bland (eleventh generation) and Mary Johnson, was Elbert R. Bland, who was born April 29, 1823, near Edgefield. Chapman celebrates him in his history of Edgefield because Elbert was a genuine war hero. Chapman says of him:

> Nature gifted him with a clear and vigorous intellect, together with an almost unparalleled native energy, and vigorous application capable of lasting and rapid acquirements. He was a strong, manly and forcible character, well calculated to carve its way through the deadliest opposition.[2]

Elbert graduated from the University of New York School of Medicine in 1844, with honors. In 1845 and 1846, he "returned to New York" for a training program that we moderns would call postgraduate research and he educated himself to be a surgeon. According to Chapman, he would have become a great surgeon if he had lived longer than he did. When war broke out between the United States and Mexico in the late 1840's,

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1 Information about the descendants of Johnson Avory Bland and Sarah Watson were derived from the Family Group Sheets of John Bland Mobley, Columbia, South Carolina.

2 Chapman, op. cit pp. 345-347.

Emmaline Rebecca Griffin
Bland (1835-1891)

Elbert R. Bland
(1823-1863)

Courtesy: Mary Wallace Day.

Elbert volunteered and went to Mexico. On March 15, 1854, he married Emaline Rebecca Griffin (Emaline was born at Edgefield January 8, 1835 and died March 29, 1891). On January 6, 1861, as war clouds gathered over the now disunited states (Presley's revenge), in the wake of Lincoln's election, Elbert Bland was commissioned a surgeon. He was content with this duty for no more than two months when, fired up with the patriotism of the early part of the Civil War, he returned home and in March 1861 was made Captain of the Ninety-Sixth Rifles. During 1861 he was in the thick of the action in Northern Virginia (home of his ancestors).

In April 1862, Elbert Bland was elected Lieutenant Colonel. Chapman indicates that Elbert Bland served at virtually every critical battle during 1862 and 1863, including Richmond, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. He was wounded repeatedly in these battles, including a severe wound in the arm at Richmond from which a painful tumor grew, causing him great suffering. After the shattering defeat of the Southern forces at Gettysburg, Elbert Bland agreed to lead his men home, and planned thereafter to return to his medical practice. Enroute at the battle of Chickamagua, Georgia, Elbert Bland was shot clean through the lung, and died less than an hour later on September 20, 1863.[1]

In the will of his father, Avory Bland, Elbert Bland inherited 1,700 acres and twenty slaves.[2] Elbert Bland (twelfth generation) and his wife Emaline (Rebecca) Griffin had three children (all thirteenth generation). Their first child, and only daughter, was Lela Elbert

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1 Chapman, op. cit., p. 347.

2 Will of Avory Bland, 1857.

Bland, who was born at Edgefield December 17, 1854, and died October 13, 1911. She married James Brooks Tompkins, on May 18, 1880.[1] James Brooks Tompkins was born November 15, 1848. James Brooks Tompkins and Lela Elbert Bland had one child, Wallace Elbert Bland Tompkins, born August 31, 1881.[2] Wallace Elbert Bland Tompkins was fourteenth generation. He married Sarah Warren on December 22, 1904, and they had (fifteenth generation) William Warren Tompkins, who was born November 26 1913, and married Henrietta Smith on July 8, 1936. Their daughter (sixteenth generation) was Mary Wallace Tompkins, my correspondent, who married Pierce Butler Day on June 14, 1958.[3]

The second child of Elbert Bland (twelfth generation) and Emaline Griffin was Wallace Bland, who was born September 19, 1856, and was killed in a public argument July 5, 1880, apparently unmarried and without issue. The third child of Elbert Bland (twelfth generation) and Emaline Griffin was St. Julian Bland, who was born February 8, 1858, and died June 12, 1891. He married Mary Parker on April 29, 1885. Mary was born November 23, 1864. When she died is uncertain. Mrs. Day indicates there was only one daughter from this marriage (fourteenth generation), Elberta Bland, who was born October 31, 1886.

To return to the children of Avory Bland (eleventh generation) and his wife, Mary Johnson, their third child was Mary Ann Bland (twelfth generation) who was born February 24, 1825 and died November 27, 1865 in Edgefield County. She married John Smyley (1819-1867) on December 3, 1840. Smyley was one of Avory Bland's executors and received from him

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1 Information about Elbert Bland is supplied by Mary Wallace Day, citing as evidence Elbert Bland's Bible (1855) and the inscriptions at the Willowbrook Cemetery. Also, information about the Bland and Griffin families submitted to the Carolina Genealogy, Vol. 30, Spring 1977, pp. 61-63.

2 Ibid.

3 Ibid.

some real property and land within the town of Edgefield, and twenty slaves.[1]

The fourth child of Avory Bland (twelfth generation) and Mary Johnson was Randall Bland. He was born about two months after the death of his Uncle Randall (1804-1829) on July 20, 1829, and he died, apparently unmarried and without issue, on January 4, 1849. The fifth child of Avory Bland and Mary Johnson, George Bland, was born about 1830. Not much is known about George. In his father's will of 1857, George received a decidedly smaller share of Avory's estate than the other children. He got 525 acres near a spot called "Able's Platt," and thirteen slaves.[2] Whether he married and had children does not appear in Mrs. Day's information.

The sixth child of Avory Bland and Mary Johnson was named Harriet Bland (thirteenth generation). She was born June 21, 1831, and must have been a favorite of her father, for in his will of 1857, he provides for her handsomely, leaving her 1,135 acres of land, his

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1 Will of Avory Bland, and Family Group Sheet for Avory Bland supplied by Mary Wallace Day.

2 Ibid.

present dwelling place, and thirty-three slaves,[1] in addition to a large amount of grain, food and livestock, as well as farm implements.

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[1] I would like to make note of a feature in Avory Bland's will respecting his disposition of his slaves. Avory appeared to take care to distribute his slaves to his children in family groups, taking care to maintain families when possible, and to keep slave children with their mothers. In his will, Avory left the following slaves by name to his various children, who might after emancipation have adopted their master's name:

> To Johnson A. Bland: Mary; Henson, the carpenter; Anderson, the carpenter; Reddick, Sylvia (Reddick's wife) and their nine children, Matt, Abram, Sussex, Thomas, Ephraim, Lawrence, Octavia, Zackariah and Fielding; Wade; old Ellen; Fanny; Ann, and her four children, Archy, Lewis, Harriet and Mims.
>
> To John Smyley: Leis, and his wife, Tenah, and their children, Caroline and Chany (Chany was allowed to have a child's piano); Gabe and his wife, Delia, and their four children, Hillard, Lewis, Spencer and Jack; Turner and his wife, Eliza Ann, and their children, Americus, Silas and Morange.
>
> To Elbert Bland: Isaac, his wife, Salley, and their four children, Victoria, Adavine, Charles and Pliny; Bill; Henry; Betsey; Sabra; Perry; Prince; Emily and Melissa; Grace and her children, Dick, Eliza and Edmund; Dave, a carpenter; and Tom, a ditcher.
>
> To Stanmore Holstein (a minor child): Ann and America, "two young slaves."
>
> To Harriet Logue: Nancy and her child, Shadrack; Crepy; Milledge; Tony; Ned and his wife, Jenny, and their child, Pender; George; Addison; Orange; Jane; Tompkins; Caroline and her children, Dorcas and Peace; Wilas, his wife Jane, and their children, Talulla, Orsamas, John, Henry and Amy; Evaline and her child, Sarah; Young Ellen and her three children, Britton, Mary Jane and Lafayette; Ben and his wife, Martha, and their child, Aaron.
>
> To George Bland: Peter and his four children, Britton, Joe, Roase and Charlotte; young Isaac; Ervin and his wife, Frances, and their children, Amy, Pink, Jerry and Mary; and Old Peter.

Harriet married first, Stanmore Holstein about 1851, and by him had a son, Stanmore Holstein Junior, born about 1852, who was provided by Avory Bland with $2,000 and two slaves upon his majority. Harriet Bland Holstein married second, William Logue, an Irish immigrant born in 1826, who graduated from the South Carolina School of Law. Logue married Harriet Bland Holstein on May 16, 1854. It is apparent that Avory Bland did not fully approve of William Logue, for in his will he stipulated that his bequest to Harriet was to be for her use, and to be passed on intact to her children. It was not to be used to satisfy any debts against William Logue, and one notes that in contra-distinction to Avory's bequest to John Smyley, husband of Avory's daughter Mary, Avory's bequest went directly to Harriet, and William Logue was not mentioned by name in the will. Logue died in 1857 or 1858, and Harriet remarried to Lawrence Johnson. Harriet Bland Holstein Logue Johnson had no children by her third husband.

By William Logue, Harriet had a son (fourteenth generation) named William, who was born in 1858. She also had a daughter named Mary Ann Logue, who was born March 11, 1855, and died in 1934. Mary Ann, also known as Mamie, married on February 21, 1878, William Derryl Warren, and they had a child (fifteenth generation) named Sarah Warren, who was born February 8, 1881. It will be remembered that Mary Wallace Day's grandfather, Wallace Elbert Bland Tompkins (fourteenth generation) married Sarah Warren, who was his cousin. Thus, Mary Wallace Day descends from Avory Bland through his son, Elbert Bland (1823-1863) and through his daughter, Harriet (1831-),[1] making Mary Wallace Day, by her own reckoning, her own fourth cousin.

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[1] Family Group Sheet of William Logue and Ancestor Chart of Mary Wallace Tompkins Day.

This concludes information known to this author about the family and descendants of Presley Bland (tenth generation), fifth child of Robert Bland and Ann, his wife. This chapter will be concluded by discussion about Robert's sixth named child, Wormley Bland.

Wormley Bland (Tenth Generation)

Wormley Bland, who was born February 17, 1771, in Loudon County, Virginia, is discussed last among the children of Robert and Ann Bland because he is my great-great-great-great grandfather. Wormley died about July 1800; thus, his life was truncated and information about him is not as plentiful as in the case of his brother Presley. On the basis of fragmentary records available, the extent of Wormley's land ownership cannot be determined with precision, but the first evidence of land passing to him was in 1792, when his mother deeded him 120 acres, no doubt soon after his twenty-first birthday.[1] Before then, Wormley was listed in the 1790 census as a head of household, with one female adult living with him.

Wormley married Sarah Turner, who was born in 1770 and died in 1847. Sarah was the daughter of William Turner and Sarah Ellzey. Sarah's birthplace is unknown, as is the place of her death, but Ellzey, as well as Wormley, are well established Virginia names.[2] The maiden

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[1] Edgefield County, South Carolina Deed Book 13, pp. 54-57, lease and release between Wormley and Ann Bland, February 26, 1796. For information about Wormley Bland and his descendants, particularly those who descended through his son William, I am chiefly beholden to my first cousin, Margaret Bland Magliocco's The Blands of Rutherford County North Carolina, cf. p. 24 ff. Margaret's work was compiled from the unassimilated research of her father, Berry Jewell Bland. Margaret improved and refined her father's work, and I must say that the publication of this book was inspired in no small part because of her efforts.

[2] Earl Swem, Comp. Virginia Historical Index, Vol. III, is loaded with Wormley's. J. E. Edwards, in his February 1899 letter to Kate Duncan Smith, vouches for the Virginia antecedents of Ellzey.

TABLE XXXV

THE FAMILY OF WORMLEY BLAND OF EDGEFIELD COUNTY, SOUTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(8) Robert Bland (C.1703-1760) = Jane _____ about 1729.

(9) Robert Bland (1733-1787) = Ann _____ in 1757.

(10) Wormley Bland (1771-1800) = Sarah Turner (1770-1847) about 1790.

(11-1)	(11-2)	(11-3)	(11-4)*
William Bland (1792-1868), married Caroline _____ about 1812, and Vianah Padgett in 1847.	Ellzey Bland married Sophia Johnson Pow.	Margaret Bland (1800-1868), married Darling Hazel in 1820.	Turner Bland

* Turner Bland received a grant from his grandmother, Ann _____ Bland in 1801. Ann also granted land to Ellzey Bland at the same time. Inasmuch as Wormley Bland married Sarah Turner, I assume, without further proof, that Turner Bland was a son of Wormley Bland.

name of Sarah's mother takes on especial importance in developing later lines of descent. Wormley apparently met with a sudden death at a young age, for on July 7, 1800, his wife filed a letter of administration in his estate, indicating that he died intestate.[1]

Information about Wormley Bland and Sarah Turner's children indicates that they had three children at least, and possibly a fourth. The oldest child was William Bland (eleventh generation), born in 1792, whose family and descendants will be discussed presently. There was one daughter, the youngest child, named Margaret Bland, who was born April 20, 1800 and died September 20, 1868. She married Darling Hazel (1789-1835) in 1820.[2] Two middle sons have had no family researchers that I know of, and information about them is correspondingly slim. There is the briefest mention in the records of Turner Bland, who received a grant, along with his brother, Ellzey, from Ann Bland, their grandmother, in 1801.[3] It is probable that Turner was born sometime in the late 1790's, but I haven't a clue as to whether he died young, married, and where he lived if he did marry.[4] Ellzey Bland, his grandmother's namesake, must have been born in the mid-1790's. He is first

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1 Magliocco, pp. 22-23, citing Box A-033, Package 1206, Wormley Bland, Deceased, Edgefield County, South Carolina.

2 One child of Margaret Bland and Darling Hazel was Ann Hazel (1835-1923) who married Walter Satcher, and who were the parents of Willis Wesley Satcher, who married Mary Amelia Crouch. This couple were parents of Mrs. Lawson (Eula Satcher) Moyers, a DAR member.

3 Quarles to Gressett, January 14, 1971.

4 In the 1850 census, there is a 40-year old widow, Elizabeth Bland, living in Edgefield County, with seven children, including: Jack, aged 18; Shelyey (?), age 14; Margaret, 11; Adaline, 9; Bury, 7; Martha, 6; Edmund, 4. This would indicate she married about 1831, and had children through 1846, when she would have been 36. Since that is not the end of child-bearing years, the indication may be that her husband died about that time. If Turner Bland, born in the late 1790's, were her husband, he would have been in his early thirties when they were married. There is nothing concrete to verify such a marriage. I would note, however, that this is the first time the male name Bury, or Berry, was used in the family, although it was a significant name.

mentioned in 1801 in the Edgefield records, by which time his father was dead. Subsequently, he is mentioned in the records as participant in land transactions in 1821, 1823, 1824, 1827 and 1830. Ellzey Bland married Sophia Johnson Pow, sister of Mary Johnson who married Avory Bland, both daughters of Moore Johnson. When Ellzey and Sophia married is uncertain. Sophia is thought to have been born before 1800, so she and Ellzey would be approximately the same age. By her marriage to Phillip Pow, Sophia Johnson had a son, Phillip Pow. By 1825, when Moore Johnson made out his will, Sophia was married to Ellzey Bland. Johnson's will was not proved until 1835, and Ellzey and Sophia may both have been dead by then, for the son, Phillip Pow, was named as heir in their place, and money (a handsome sum of five shillings, indicating that Moore Johnson wasn't altogether pleased with Sophia) was paid to "the estate of Bland."[1]

William Bland (Eleventh Generation)

William Bland was born on February 2, 1792, and died November 25, 1868 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. He is reckoned as the oldest son of Wormley Bland and Sarah Turner. The assumption that William was a son of Wormley was taken up by Mrs. Magliocco, apparently after Berry Bland juxtaposed dates between William and Wormley, and came to the conclusion, correctly, I believe, that they were father and son. Berry, in his ponderous way, made the following observation:

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[1] Mary Wallace Day, The Estate of Moore Johnson. J. E. Edwards, in his letter to Kate Duncan Smith, claimed to have corresponded with Sophia; stated that Ellzey Bland (married a widow Pugh (Pow) and removed to Alabama."

> Conversations among present family groups lead us to believe that we are interested only in the family of which Wormeley (sic) Bland was a member. Rutherford County Blands constantly refer to "a Bland named Wormly (sic) from South Carolina" as the father of William Bland, of Rutherford County.[1]

Elizabeth Bland Lovvorn, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, a descendant of William through his son, Jacob Calhoun Bland, reinforced this oral tradition in a history written before she began a correspondence with Berry Bland:

> I have often heard the name of Wormsley Bland and that he was William Bland's father...I know only that it is said by older Blands that their great grandfather was Wormsley Bland.[2]

One should add that to the extent naming practices provide clues to family linkages, the children and grandchildren of William Bland bore names such as Avory and Elsey (Ellzey), and as we have seen, Ellzey and Avory Bland, first cousins, married daughters of the same man.[3]

Such naming linkages compel one to believe in a family relationship between William Bland and the extended Edgefield County family. Having gone so far, one would have to say that a process of elimination excludes a parent-son relationship with anyone but Wormley Bland. The other possibilities would have to be Edward Bland, who in 1792 would have been about 62. His wife Frances, even if fifteen years younger than Edward, would be 47, and pushing hard at the limits of her child-

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1 Magliocco, p. 25.

2 Betty Bland Lovvorn, "The North Carolina Blands" (C.1962), pp. 10, 13. Margaret Magliocco relied on Mrs. Lovvorn's work to a considerable degree.

3 William could well have been named for his maternal grandfather, William Turner, or for his great uncle, William Bland, younger brother of Wormley Bland's father.

bearing years. Further, the ages given for their children in the 1790 census argues against the appearance of another child in 1792.[1] Of the sons of Robert Bland, there is no possibility that Presley Bland, born in 1768, could be the father of William, and the four younger sons born between 1775-1783 were too young in 1792 to be William's father. That leaves Wormley as William's father. Neither Betty Lovvorn nor Berry Bland were frivolous in their research, and since Wormley is not exactly an everyday name, my assumption is that if they independently discovered family traditions speaking of an ancestral grandfather Wormley, the oral tradition is sufficiently strong to warrant an assumed father-son relationship.

William Bland, as an adult, moved to York County, South Carolina, and subsequently to Union County, before moving to Rutherford County, North Carolina, in the 1830's.

William married twice, first to a woman named Caroline or Carolina, probably Miller. One tradition in the Rutherford County, North Carolina family is that she was Caroline Aiken. There is no way of proving or disproving this notion, but I suspect she might have been Caroline Miller from Aiken. Perhaps William's Uncle Presley took him along on one of his trips to Aiken, and William met his wife there. They were married about 1812.

William and Caroline may have lived their early years in Edgefield County, but by 1820 they were in Union County, where they remained

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[1] Edward did have a son William, and the 1790 census showed that he had two sons over 16, who could have been father to William in 1792.

William Bland (1792-1868)

ourtesy: Elizabeth Bland Lovvorn.

until after 1830, when the family moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina,[1] by which time all their children had been born. Using census records, Margaret has reconciled the estimates of her father and Betty Lovvorn about the number and names of children born to William Bland and his wife, coming up with eleven (twelfth generation), including three unnamed children; three named sons, William W. Bland (born 1818), Jacob Calvin Bland (born 1827), and Thomas R. Bland (born 1829); and five named daughters, Sarah Bland (born C.1815), Martha (born C.1813-1814), Elizabeth, Nancy and Rachel (birthdates uncertain, listed as aged 10-15 in 1830 census, thus all born between 1815-1820).

What happened to the first wife of William Bland is not known. She had borne William at least eleven children by 1829, when the youngest, Thomas R. Bland, was born. She was living when the 1830 census was taken, and in all probability lived until the 1840's. William remarried in 1847, but he was not counted in the 1840 census for Rutherford County, North Carolina. It is fair to assume, however, that not too many years elapsed between the death of his first wife and his second marriage.

During 1831, William bought land in Rutherford County, North Carolina, just across the South and North Carolina border near the present city of Cliffside. William's motive for moving is a mystery. Berry Bland, in fact, assumed that some trauma was responsible for William's departure. Just after he bought the land, a series of events

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1 As Margaret Magliocco tells it, Berry Bland discovered William Bland's original Rutherford County Land Grant which was issued in 1831, just before he (Berry) died in 1973. This land grant was made out to "William Bland, of the District of Union, and the State of South Carolina." Before he could do anything with the information, Berry died. Margaret then searched the census records for 1820 and 1830 and found William and his family in Union County. Magliocco, pp. 28, 31.

occurred that could have driven him out of South Carolina. Shortly after William bought his land, Nat Turner's Slave Rebellion caused a paranoic wave of fear to sweep across the lower, slave-holding South, resulting in vigilante murders of blacks and poor whites, and uprooting many people from their homes. The longer term effect was that Virginia slaveholders also began to sell off their slaves to men of property in the lower South, which resulted in a glut of slave labor in South Carolina by the mid-1830's that affected the balance of labor between slaves and poor whites in, among many places, Edgefield County,[1] and certainly in South Carolina generally. Andrew Jackson's veto of the National Bank Franchise in 1832 set off a series of financial tremors that led to a full-blown economic depression by 1837. Finally, in late spring and summer of 1832, a devastating cholera epidemic swept across the American continent, encompassing everything from Boston to New Orleans.[2]

Whatever his reasons, William bought land in Rutherford County, North Carolina, gathered up his brood, and moved across the border, becoming a North Carolinian.

On April 5, 1847, William, who was aged 55, married his second wife, Vianah Padgett, a mere child by comparison, aged only 32. William and Vianah had four children. These children, like those of William's first marriage, were (twelfth generation):[3]

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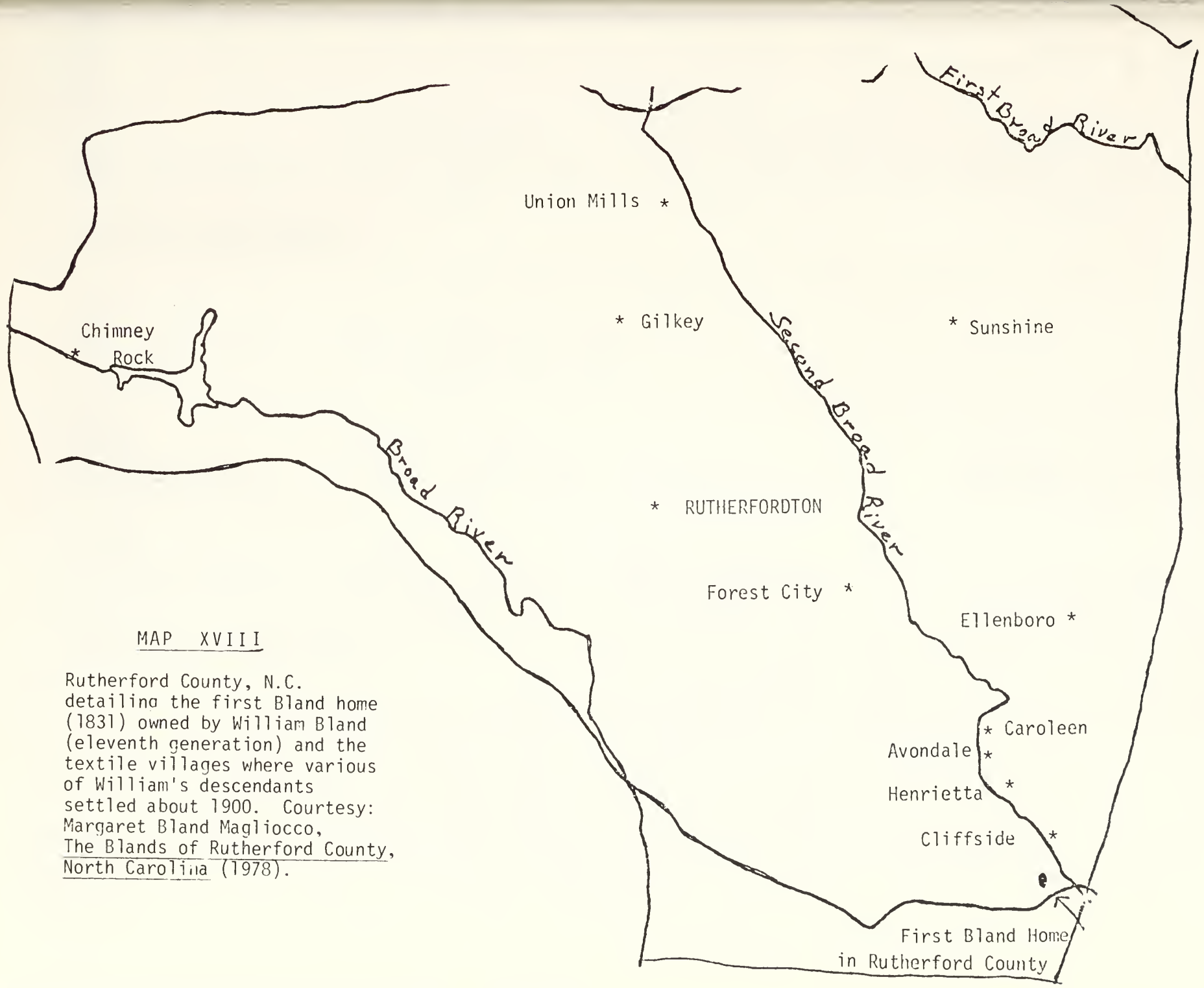
1 William H. Freehling, Prelude to Civil War: 1816-1840 (1966), p. 4.

2 Charles E. Rosenberg, The Cholera Years (1962), passim. The cholera epidemic could be what wiped out the three young and unidentifie children of William Bland who did not, at any rate, survive until the 1850 census.

3 For information about the descendants of William Bland through his second marriage, see Magliocco, pp. 33-37, 45-46, 58, 75-78, 97-100.



MAP XVIII

Rutherford County, N.C. detailing the first Bland home (1831) owned by William Bland (eleventh generation) and the textile villages where various of William's descendants settled about 1900. Courtesy: Margaret Bland Magliocco, The Blands of Rutherford County, North Carolina (1978).

TABLE XXXVI

THE FAMILY OF WILLIAM BLAND OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(9) Robert Bland (1733-1787) = Ann _____ in 1757.

(10) Wormley Bland (1771-1800) = Sarah Turner (1770-1847), about 1790.

(11) William Bland (1792-1868) = (1) Caroline _____, about 1812.
(2) Vianah Padgett, in 1847.

Children by Caroline _____:

(12-1) Martha Bland (1813-) married Tolliver Goode in 1831.	(12-2) Sarah Bland (C.1815-) married Tolliver Davis in 1835.	(12-3) Rachel Bland (C.1816-) married Samuel Martin in 1833.	(12-4) Elizabeth Bland married W. D. Cooper in 1839.
(12-5) Nancy Bland married Jonathan Gillippie in 1840.	(12-6) William W. Bland (C.1818-C.1884) married Caroline Suttles about 1838.	(12-7/8) Two unknown children were born 1820-1825.	(12-9) One unknown child was born 1825-1829.
(12-10) Jacob Calvin Bland (1827-1898) married Melissa Rollins (1831-1922) in 1848.	(12-11) Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904) married Patsy Rollins (1828-1913), in 1849.		

Children by Vianah Padgett:

(12-1) Naomi Jane Bland (1848-1928), never married.	(12-2) Matilda Jane Bland (1849-1912), married A. Dixon Scruggs, about 1867.	(12-3) Silas Avery Bland (1851-1928), married (1) Mary Ellen Harris in 1876, and (2) Willie Suttle Haynes.	(12-4) Vianah Catherine Bland (1855-1924), married M. B. Lemmons.

1) Naomi Jane, the eldest child of William Bland and Vianah Padgett, was born on January 21, 1848,[1] and died February 28, 1928. Naomi never married and lived her life near her birthplace. 2) Matilda Jane Bland was born July 8, 1849, and died May 14, 1912, near Cliffside, North Carolina. Matilda married A. Dixon Scruggs (1845-1888) sometime before 1868. Matilda and Dixon had a family of eight children. 3) Vianah Catherine Bland, the third daughter, and fourth child, of William Bland and Vianah Padgett, was born on November 13, 1855, and died December 21, 1924. She married M. B. Lemmons on October 21, 1894, but there were no children by the marriage.

4) The only son born of the marriage of William Bland and Vianah Padgett was Silas Avery Bland, who was born on his father's farm on December 6, 1851, where he died on August 1, 1928. In the interim, Silas Avery married twice and had a family. His first wife was Mary Ellen Harris, whom he married on March 9, 1876, They had three sons (thirteenth generation), including:

(1) Ernest Clarence Bland, who was born November 22, 1876. Ernest died September 10, 1905 at a young age of 29. He married Bertha Florence Hamrick (1870-1898) who died shortly after the birth of their last child. Ernest and Bertha had at least four children (fourteenth generation), including two daughters, Lula Bland and Lily Bland. A third daughter, Florence Bland, died September 14, 1898, at childbirth, and her mother died nine days later. The only son of Ernest Bland and Florence Hamrick was William Avery, about whom nothing further is known to this writer.

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[1] Naomi was born just over eight months after William Bland, aged 55, married Vianah Padgett, confirming for us all that it is possible to be born again!

(2) The second son of Silas Avery Bland and Mary Ellen Harris was William Burwell Bland, who was born August 27, 1880. He was known, evidently, as "Berle" or "Burl" Bland, and lived his life as a farmer near Sulphur Springs, North Carolina. He died April 7, 1958. William Burwell Bland married Mary Smart and they had eight children (fourteenth generation), including Estelle Bland, Ellen Bland, John Bland born July 9, 1908, Joyce Bland, James N. Bland, Ernest W. Bland, Louise Bland, and Joseph B. Bland.

The third child of Silas Avery Bland and his wife, Mary Ellen Harris, was Summey Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born in Rutherford County on May 27, 1884. The date of his death is uncertain. Summey married Maude Horton, August 8, 1905, in Cherokee County, South Carolina. They shuttled back and forth between South Carolina and Rutherford County, North Carolina. Summey and Maude had seven children (fourteenth generation): Dewitt Haynes Bland, born June 11, 1907 and died August 3, 1966; Ernest Dorch Bland, born August 26, 1909, and died in Gaffney, South Carolina, June 14, 1962; Horace Horton Bland, born April 9, 1912, date of death unknown; Lois Virginia Bland, born April 14, 1914, and died as a child June 11, 1917; Summey Milton Bland, born July 15, 1918 in Cherokee County, South Carolina; Lois Mae Bland, born October 3, 1920; Hal Edwin Bland, born on November 15, 1926.

These were the children of Silas Avery Bland and Mary Ellen Harris, his first wife, who died August 23, 1905. Following Mary Ellen's death, Silas Avery Bland married Willie Suttle Haynes (1862-1940), but there were no children by this second marriage.

These are the children of William Bland (eleventh generation) by his second wife, Vianah Padgett. William's children by his first marriage are less well defined because of the relative inaccuracy of records at the time of their birth, and also, probably because of William's moving about until he settled in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Margaret Bland Magliocco's reconciliation of estimated children of William and his first wife as per those calculated by Berry Bland and Betty Lovvorn, turned up eleven, including three who were unidentified by name, five named daughters, and three named sons. All these children would be twelfth generation.

The eldest child and daughter was Martha Bland. She was listed in the 1830 census as aged 15-20. Since she married Tolliver Goode in 1831 in Rutherford County, she would have been about 18 at least when married, so it is reasonable to conclude that she was born about 1813. There is nothing more in Margaret Magliocco's book about Tolliver Goode and Martha Bland.

Sarah Bland was born in 1815, and is the second child of William Bland and his first wife. She married Tolliver Davis (1810-1866) on September 4, 1835, in Rutherford County, and by him had eight children. Sarah survived Tolliver Davis. She was counted in the 1870 census.

William Bland and his first wife had three daughters who were simply identified in the 1830 census as being 10-15 years of age, although matching them up with the 1820 census indicates that they were all born between 1816-1819. The eldest of these appears to have been Rachel Bland, who was probably born in 1816, for she married Samuel Martin, of Rutherford County, in 1833. Rachel also was known as "Panity."

Elizabeth C. Bland married W. D. Cooper in 1839 in Rutherford County. Nancy Bland married Jonathan Gillispie in 1840.[1]

The first known son of William Bland and his first wife was William W. Bland.[2] The 1870 census shows that he was 52 years old that year, suggesting he was born in 1818. When his birthdate is added to those of his five identified sisters, it becomes clear that William and his first wife had a child virtually every year from 1812-1820. The date or place of William Bland's death is uncertain, but probably was 1884.

William married Caroline Suttles in Rutherford County about 1838. As a married couple they lived in Rutherford County except it appears for several years during the 1850's and 1860's, when they lived in South Carolina. William W. Bland and Caroline Suttles had three known children, although they were born at disparate times and there must have been others who died young. Their three children (thirteenth generation) are:

1) Martha was born about 1839. When she died and whether she married is unknown.

2) Pantha Jane Bland was born August 24, 1844, and died June 26, 1928 near Forest City, North Carolina. Pantha Jane married William Martin, and together they became successful farmers and apparently owner operators of a business named "Martin's Mill." In their marriage they had three children.

3) Joseph Frank Bland was born in 1855. The date of his death is uncertain. Frank was known as "The Music Man" by those who remember him. He sold musical instruments and also, so they say, could play

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[1] Information about William Bland's daughters by his first wife is included in Magliocco, pp. 38-39.

[2] It would be exceedingly interesting to know what the initial W. represents. William Wormeley?

them all. People who knew him liked to listen to him play the musical instruments, buy them from him occasionally, and then hire him to teach them how to play. He married Betty Burris, but they moved away from Rutherford County, the first family to do so. They settled in Surrey County, North Carolina. Joseph Frank Bland and Betty Burris had six known children, all fourteenth generation: Adam Bland; Laler Bland, a daughter; Joseph Frank Bland Jr.; Robert Bland; Eugene Bland; and Dalmer Bland.[1]

Six children then were born to William Bland (eleventh generation) and his first wife, during the years 1812-1820. Through the year 1829, another five children were born, including two unknown children born between 1820-1825, another unknown child between 1825-1829, and two known sons, Jacob Calhoun Bland and Thomas R. Bland, who were very close apparently, emotionally, socially and geographically, as well as chronologically. Aside from the two years that separate them at birth, their lives were remarkably similar.

The eldest of these two sons was Jacob Calvin Bland, who was born February 10, 1827 in South Carolina, and died February 7, 1898 in Rutherford County, North Carolina. Jacob Calvin was a farmer, and on June 24, 1848, married Melissa Rollins, a daughter of James Rollins. Melissa was born in 1831, and died September 27, 1922.[2] Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins had nine children, all thirteenth generation:

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1 Information about the family of William W. Bland (twelfth generation) and Caroline Suttles is found in Magliocco, pp. 39-40, 49, 62, 82.

2 The Bland and Rollins families were always close, perhaps as a result of the double first cousin relationship that resulted from Jacob Calvin and Thomas R. Bland marrying sisters, Melissa and Patsy or Martha Rollins. My grandfather, Bunyan Bland, had a lifelong friendship with one Hardy Rollins, of Rutherford County. I have a photo of them together in a group picture taken July 4, 1899 when Bunyan was 23, and again in 1955, the year Bunyan died, at the last church reunion he ever attended. Information regarding Jacob Calvin Bland's family is found in Magliocco, pp. 40-44, 51-54, 63-65, 83-84, and 102-104.

Their first child was George Washington Bland, who was born in 1851 and died in 1882. He never married. George Washington Bland is buried next to his parents in the Piney Knob Baptist Church cemetery in Rutherford County.

The second child of Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins was Noah Jonas Bland, who was born July 14, 1853, and died near Forest City, North Carolina, on June 15, 1936. Noah Jonas married Matilda Catherine Scoggins (1863-1933) on May 9, 1882. There were seven children (fourteenth generation) by this marriage: J. Edgar Bland, born on April 22, 1883, and died August 18, 1889. Jonas Osborne Bland, born March 5, 1885; it is uncertain when he died. He married Lily Ervin Watson (1890-) on March 17, 1907. Jonas Osborne Bland and Lily Watson had nine children (fifteenth generation) whose lives extended into the 20th century.[1]

Matilda Emma Bland was born May 26, 1887, and died August 20, 1889. Margaret Magliocco indicates that both James Edgar Bland and Matilda Emma Bland died during a diptheria epidemic in the summer of 1889.

Richard Furman Bland was born January 1, 1890. Richard did service in World War I, and following his return from the war, went off to New York City and no one ever heard from him again.

William Bland was born on December 14, 1899 and died on July 12, 1900.

Worth Livingston Johnson Bland was born April 5, 1905.

The final child of Noah Jonas Bland and Matilda Scoggins was Jessie Lee Bland. Jessie was all set to get married to Sarah Harrell on March 4, 1931, but on the day before, he started to fix his car in a

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[1] One of them, Elizabeth Aileen Bland, was born March 18, 1925. She married James Lovvorn in 1946. Both now live in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and have two daughters. She is the Betty Bland Lovvorn who collaborated with Berry Bland and his daughter, Margaret Magliocco, in preparation of Margaret Magliocco's story of the Rutherford County, North Carolina Blands.

closed garage, and died from carbon monoxide fumes.

The third child of Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins (twelfth generation) was William Lindsey Bland, who was born July 11, 1855 and died January 21, 1931. William Lindsey Bland was a truck farmer and also a gossip columnist for the Rutherford County newspaper, who went by the pen name of "Copper Bill." He married Louraine Haynes (1852-1929) on November 8, 1877. "Copper Bill" and his wife Louraine Haynes had the following children (fourteenth generation):

Orah C. Bland was born January 13, 1879, and died July 7, 1952. Minnie L. Bland was born September 11, 1880, and died July 15, 1929. Mattie Bland was born August 18, 1882, and died July 29, 1963. Lily J. E. Bland was born February 8, 1889. The date of her death (or whether she is still living at age 92 in 1981) is unknown. The only son born to William Lindsey Bland and Louraine Haynes (thirteenth generation) was Richard Volney Bland, who was born May 29, 1885 and died October 9, 1893.

The fourth child of Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins (twelfth generation) was Sarah Bland, who was born July 2, 1858 and died April 25, 1947. She married Richard Ledbetter (1862-1940) on March 30, 1882, and by him had eleven children, the tenth of whom, Mary Kate Ledbetter, wrote a very touching essay about her mother. Sarah was described by her daughter as having wavy auburn hair, similar to several of her (Sarah's) siblings. She had blue eyes and fair complexion, and was of medium height and weight. She was described also as frugal, thrifty and a down home doctor for the family.

The fifth child of Jacob Calvin Bland (twelfth generation) and his wife, Melissa Rollins, was Mary Bland, who was born in 1860. The date of her death is uncertain, but she married Furman Phillips, by whom she had four children.

The sixth child of Jacob Calvin Bland (twelfth generation) and Melissa Rollins was John Tolliver Bland, who was born on February 6, 1867, and died August 27, 1952. John Bland was a school teacher, superintendent of the Red Top School located on the Old Fort-Lake Lure North Carolina road. He married Josephine Webb on July 22, 1897, and with her had eight children (fourteenth generation) including: Annie Mae Bland, born February 12, 1907, date of death uncertain; Fannie Lou Alma Bland, born November 28, 1912; Willie Bessie Marie Bland, born February 21, 1920.

There were five sons born to John Tolliver Bland and Josephine Webb, including four who died in infancy, apparently between 1898 and 1906. The only son who survived was Adam Columbus Bland, who was born September 19, 1910.

Melissa Jane Bland (thirteenth generation), the seventh child of Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins, was born in 1869 and died in 1939. She married Crayton Justice, of Belmont, North Carolina, and by him had five children. Rebecca Marie Bland, eighth child of Jacob Calvin Bland and Melissa Rollins was born December 2, 1874, and died January 4, 1915. She married George Allen (1876-1920) and by him had one child.

The ninth child of Jacob Calvin Bland (twelfth generation) and Melissa Rollins was Jacob Druey Bland, who was born in 1877 and died in 1955. He was willed his father's estate when Jacob Calvin died in 1898, and he remained at Jacob Calvin's farm to care for his mother until she died in 1922. Jacob married Mary C. Koone on February 7, 1909, in what was a double wedding ceremony shared by one Richard Bland and Mossey Weeks.[1] In their marriage, Jacob Druey Bland and Mary Koone

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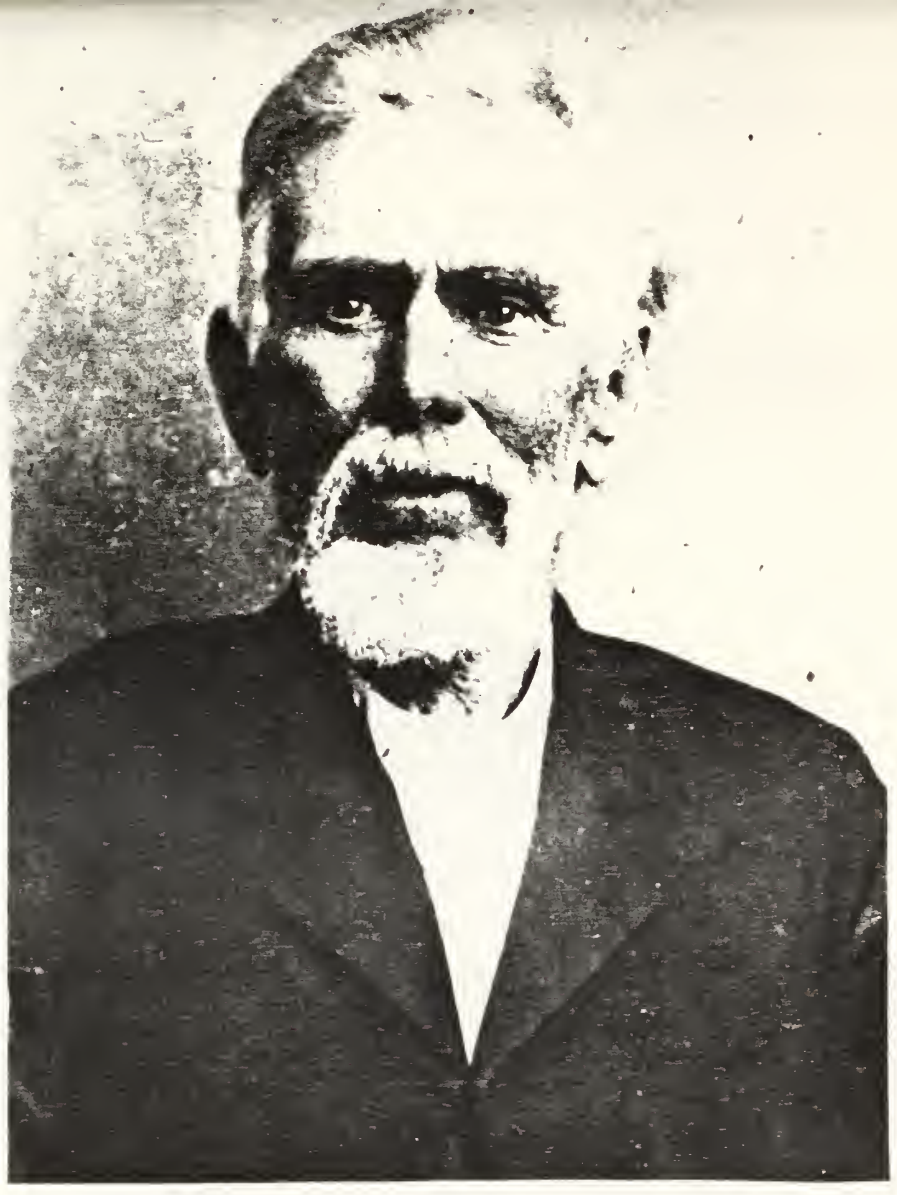
[1] Who this Richard Bland was does not appear in Margaret Magliocco's work.

Jacob Calvin Bland
(1827-1898)

Courtesy: Betty Bland Lovvorn



Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904),
about 1872.

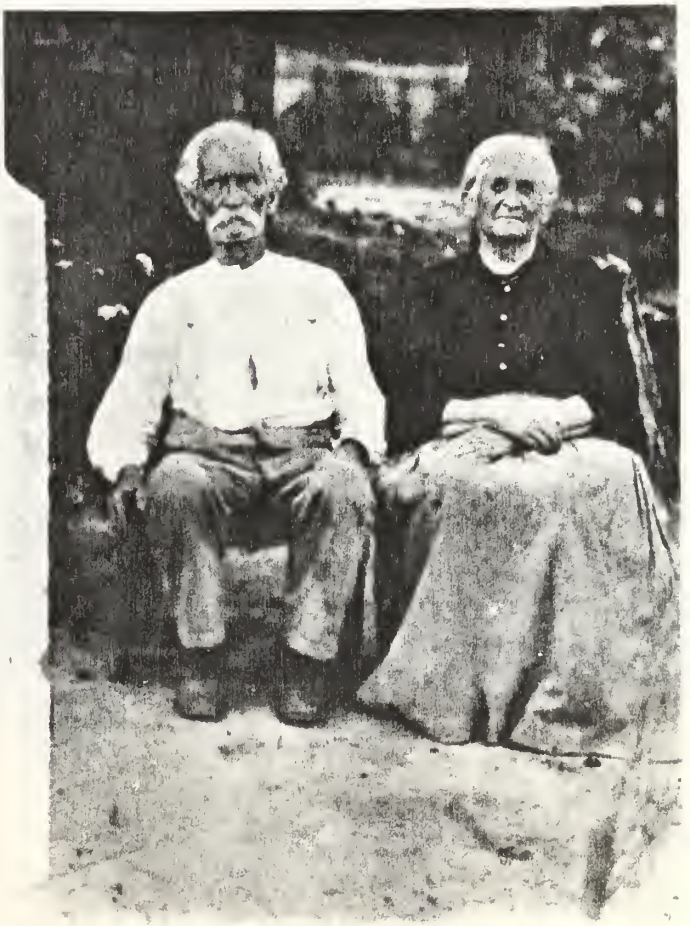
Courtesy: Hilda Smart.

Matilda Scoggins Bland (1863-1933) and Noah Jonas Bland (1853-1936)

Courtesy: Elizabeth Bland Lovvorn.

Patsy Rollins Bland (1828-1913), wife of Thomas R. Bland. Photo made about 1872.

Courtesy: Hilda Smart.



Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904) and Patsy Rollins Bland (1828-1913). Photo made about 1899.

Courtesy: Margaret Bland Magliocco.

Nancy Caroline Bland Harrell (1850-1874)

Courtesy: Hilda Smart.

Martha Catherine ("Aunt Mattie") Bland Freeman, (1873-1952). Photos made about 1899.

Top photo courtesy Margaret Bland Magliocco. Lower photo courtesy Hilda Smart.

Nancy Caroline Harrell Smart (1874-1980), daughter of Nancy Caroline Bland. Photo made on "Cousin Nanny's" 106th birthday.

Courtesy: Hilda Smart.

had the following seven children (fourteenth generation): William Daniel Bland; Mamie Lee Bland; Onnee Ree Bland; Julia Mae Bland; Worth Bland; James Frank Bland, born July 1, 1924; and Annie Laura Bland.

The youngest child of William Bland and his first wife (eleventh generation) was Thomas R. Bland, who was born February 27, 1829, and died May 30, 1904. Like his brothers, and most of his kin, Thomas R. lived in Rutherford County all of his life, and for most of that time worked as a farmer. Between 1885 and 1895, he moved his family out of the rural area, however, and into the town of Caroleen, where he remained for the rest of his life. Thomas considered himself a native North Carolinian, but it is clear that he was born in South Carolina in 1829 and moved to Rutherford County, North Carolina in 1831 or 1832.

Thomas R. Bland married Patsy Ann Rollins on February 15, 1849. Two things are interesting about Patsy Ann Rollins, and curious. First, although her tombstone markings identify her as "Patsy," census records consistently refer to her as "Martha." There is no apparent explanation for this, save that Martha was her true name and Patsy, or Patsy Ann, an endearment. Second, she was the sister of Melissa Rollins, who married Jacob Calhoun Bland, the brother of Patsy's husband, Thomas R. Bland. Patsy Rollins Bland was born October 15, 1828, and died November 12, 1913.

An interesting note about the lives of Thomas Bland and his older brother, Jacob Calvin, is what happened during the Civil War. Berry Bland found no record of either having served in the Civil War, but as in the case of the wives of many other men who did serve, there is a hiatus in child-bearing by both Melissa and Patsy Rollins that begins and ends at almost the same time. Mary Ann Bland, child of Jacob Calvin

and Melissa Rollins, was born in 1860, and their next child, John Tolliver, was born February 6, 1867. William W. Bland was born February 6, 1860, and the next child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins was born January 14, 1867. Among other things, along with their marriages to two sisters, this would seem to indicate that the habits and interests of Thomas R. Bland and Jacob Calvin Bland were about the same. It has also led to a "family legend" which has the two brothers leaving the county "because of confusion resulting from Klu Klux Klan activity."[1] How this family legend began does not appear and seems to be ambiguous. The Klu Klux Klan did not appear until 1865 when the war was over, and never really took hold until 1867, by which time Thomas and Jacob, wherever they went, had been back in Rutherford County for at least nine months. Nor is it certain from Mrs. Magliocco information whether Thomas and Jacob were Klansmen themselves, or were driven out of the county by the Klan. If the latter, a certain amount of plausibility and explanation might intrude, for in addition to the fact that the Civil War was not heavily fought in Rutherford County, it is fairly well known that the county and certain localities within it contained pockets of Republican loyalty, which could have meant resistance to the Confederate cause. Finally, one should not discount the possibility that Jacob and Thomas were war resisters, reasoning perhaps that if they fled combat, they might live to tell the story of the Civil War to some of their children and grandchildren. Whether or not that is the case, Jacob lived to have four post-war children and 33 years of life, and Thomas had three post-war children and 39 years of life, which is more than many other young men who went off to fight in 1861 could claim. There is in this not the slightest intent to

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1 Magliocco, p. 44.

impute lack of patriotism and disloyalty to either of the brothers. They would have been behaving in a manner consistent with the general attitude of their elected local political leaders, particularly in the latter phases of the war.

Thomas Bland and Patsy Rollins had a family of eight children, all thirteenth generation. One of the remarkable things about this family is that all the children that are known lived to adulthood, although several of them did not marry. Patsy Rollins bore her last child in 1873 when she was 45.

The first child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins was Nancy Caroline, who was born January 7, 1850, and died January 17, 1874. Nancy Caroline's daughter lived to an ancient age of 106, and relatives, while clearing out her effects, discovered a picture of Nancy Caroline, a copy of which was graciously sent to me by Nancy Caroline's granddaughter, Hilda Smart.[1] Nancy Caroline married B. Franklin Harrell on March 22, 1873, and their first child (fourteenth generation) Nancy was born January 17, 1874. Nancy Caroline died just hours after Nancy's birth. Nancy was born just two weeks after the birth of the last child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins, whose name was Martha Catherine Bland (and who will be discussed presently). Family tradition has it that Patsy Rollins, noting that she could just as easily nurse both children, put her own child on one breast, her daughter's child to the other, and raised them both as sisters, though one was the aunt of the

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[1] The backdrop of the photograph shows the same sort of rough texture that appears in the younger photographs of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins. This leads me to conclude that a photographer came through the area that year and took Thomas', Patsy's and Nancy Caroline's picture. Possibly others were taken and they would be priceless if discovered. See photos on pp. 534A,C,D.

other. Both children, Nancy Caroline and Martha, were very close in age and also emotionally close to my grandfather, Bunyan Bland (fourteenth generation).

Nancy Caroline Harrell lived to an astounding age of 106, finally succumbing to death on August 2, 1980. In her youth, she was known to be somewhat wild, but also beautiful in a petite kind of way, "no bigger than a minute," as one of her cousins put it. She was named Miss Burnt Tree (now Forest City, North Carolina) in 1890, and the earliest photograph I have found of her, taken with her husband in a group portrait in 1899, shows her indeed to be very small, with dark hair, and very beautiful. As she aged, she became known to the family as "Cousin Nanny," and her longevity made her something of a legend. My grandfather, Bunyan Bland, visited her often, and it is said that they spent many hours sitting on her porch, absorbed in conversation. Nanny began to slow down when she reached age 100, her memory and even her faculties began to fade and her conversation was no longer very coherent. Increasingly, her wit and conversational charm became aphoristic and fragmented. One such gem of sharp wit was exchanged between Nanny and one of those parade of local journalists who treked to her house to celebrate each post-centennial birthday. One told her she was looking good, to which Nanny shot back, her black eyes flashing "cain't do nothin' else."[1]

By the time I was able to get my family around to see her, Nanny was within eight months of death and was virtually insensible. On that day, very early in 1980, my wife and daughter arrived with me to visit

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[1] Forest City This Week, February 23, 1974.

TABLE XXXVII

THE FAMILY OF JACOB CALVIN BLAND OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(10) Wormley Bland (1771-1800) = Sarah Turner (1770-1847) about 1790.

(11) William Bland (1792-1868) = (1) Caroline _____ about 1812.
(2) Vianah Padgett in 1847.

(12) Jacob Calvin Bland (1827-1898) = Melissa Rollins (1831-1922) in 1848.

(13-1)	(13-2)	(13-3)	(13-4)	(13-5)
George Washington Bland (1851-1922), never married.	Noah Jonas Bland (1853-1906), married Matilda C. Scoggins in 1882.	William Lindsey Bland (1855-1931), married Louraine Haynes in 1877.	Sarah Bland (1858-1947), married Richard Ledbetter in 1882.	Mary Bland (1860-) married Furman Phillips.

(13-6)	(13-7)	(13-8)	(13-9)
John Tolliver Bland (1867-1952), married Josephine Webb in 1897.	Melissa Jane Bland (1869-1939), married Crayton Justice.	Rebecca Marie Bland (1874-1915), married George Allen.	Jacob Druey Bland (1877-1955), married Mary C. Koone in 1909.

TABLE XXXVIII

THE FAMILY OF THOMAS R. BLAND OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FOUR GENERATIONS

(10) Wormley Bland (1771-1800) = Sarah Turner (1770-1847) about 1790.

(11) William Bland (1792-1868) = (1) Caroline _____ about 1812.
(2) Vianah Padgett, in 1847.

(12) Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904) = Patsy Rollins (1828-1913), in 1849.

(13-1)	(13-2)	(13-3)	(13-4)
Nancy Caroline Bland (1850-1874), married B. Franklin Harrell in 1873.	James Cansler Bland (1854-1912), married Clementine Jolley about 1881.	Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917) married Martha Greene in 1875.	Leonard C. Bland (1858-1912) married Alice Scoggins in 1881.
(13-5)	(13-6)	(13-7)	(13-8)
William W. Bland (1860-1939), did not marry.	Sallie A. Bland (1867-1943), never married.	Mary Jane Bland (1869-1925), did not marry.	Martha Catherine Bland (1873-1952), married Robert Freemen in 1897.

Nanny and her daughter Hilda, who hauled Nanny, grumbling and growling, up from the bed. Settled in her chair, Nanny's eyes roamed about the room, settling on my daughter Christina. For just a moment, a twinkle of kindness and mischief came to those devilish eyes, as she tried to tease Christina closer to her. Then she saw my wife, and for reasons that remain unclear, suddenly turned the air blue with a string of curses, waving her bony old finger in Jane's face and lecturing her about God's vengeance.

Sometime in the 1890's, no one seems to remember exactly when, Nanny married William K. Smart who, it is said, being older, more mature and more settled, took care of Nanny, and died a relatively early death in the process, living a mere 65 years (1869-1934).

The second child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins was James Cansler Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born August 17, 1854 and died in Huntsville, Alabama on October 25, 1912. James Cansler Bland married Clementine Jolley (1862-1956) about 1881. Near the turn of the 20th century, James Cansler Bland moved his family to Huntsville, Alabama, where he died. Clementine Jolley returned to North Carolina and died at Burlington, North Carolina.

James Cansler Bland and Clementine Jolley had five children, all fourteenth generation.

Grover Belton Bland, first child of James Cansler and Clementine Jolley, was born June 19, 1884 in Rutherford County, North Carolina, and died March 25, 1942 at Lexington, North Carolina. He is buried near Mocksville, where many of his descendants now live. Grover married Sara Pack and they had two children (fifteenth generation): (1) Vivian Bland married P. O. Hargett, and by him had three children. (2) Cecil W. Bland Sr. was born August 12, 1912. The date of his death is uncertain

but he married Bertha Mae Kepley on August 16, 1934, and had with her two children (sixteenth generation), Sarah Jane Bland and Cecil W. Bland Junior.

The second child of James Cansler Bland and Clementine Jolley was Bessie Bland, who was born May 15, 1887 and died May 18, 1969. Bessie was engaged to be married, but marriage would have meant moving away from her mother, who was seriously ill at the time. Bessie broke the engagement and never married. Bessie attended the Boiling Spring School, now Gardner Webb College. She is buried at the Pine Hill Cemetery in Burlington, North Carolina.

The third child of James Cansler Bland and Clementine Jolley was Vernon Beverly Bland, who was born June 7, 1890 and died June 13, 1963. Vernon was a supervisor for a loom company and traveled widely during his younger years. He married Lela Mae Parker on September 10, 1923. Following Vernon's death, Lela remarried at age 72, to Leath Massey on August 16, 1975. Vernon Bland and Lela Parker had three children (fifteenth generation):

1) Owen Thomas Bland was born May 1, 1926. Owen served during both World War II and the Korean Conflict as a Navy man, and is currently employed by Western Electric near Burlington. He married "Billie" Clifton, by whom there are no children.

2) Betty Lou Bland was born February 4, 1930, and married Lester Tripp, by whom she had three daughters: Linda, Norma and Sandra. Betty Lou operates a rest home.

3) Joe Douglas Bland was born November 19, 1933. He served in the U.S. Air Force and is presently a letter carrier for the Mebane, North Carolina Post Office. He married Patricia Ann Andrews on June 26 1971, but they have no children.

The fifth and final child of James Cansler Bland and Clementine Jolley was Effie Kate Bland, who was born June 29, 1896 and died November 29, 1978. She is buried at the Pine Hill Cemetery in Burlington, North Carolina. Effie Kate so detested her name that she had it changed to Mayme Kathleen, and she was known to the family as "Mamie." She was remembered by those who knew her, as a unique woman who was a voracious reader and crossword puzzle freak, who had an enormous vocabulary. Some pictures that survive of her in her younger years portray a pert, petite blonde who is always posed in the picture. She had many suitors and once became engaged, but got away from him, and never married.

The third child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins was Berry Elsey Bland (thirteenth generation) who was born on June 5, 1856 and died suddenly of a heart attack on May 3, 1917. Berry Elsey Bland was the great grandfather of this writer. On December 26, 1875, Berry Elsey Bland married Martha Greene, of Rutherford County, North Carolina. Martha was born July 26, 1849 and died February 10, 1935. They had a family of seven children (fourteenth generation), including:

Thomas Bunyan Bland, who was born October 20, 1876, and died March 25, 1955. Bunyan, as his children, friends and grandchildren knew him, married Margaret Delena Kirby on May 20, 1899. Margaret Kirby was born December 12, 1883, and died November 12, 1958. Bunyan and Margaret had a family of ten children, including notably their youngest child and son, Bruce Steven Bland, who was born June 27, 1922, and is still living. Bruce Steven Bland (fifteenth generation) married Frances Faries (born December 29, 1922) on June 30, 1939, and

they had one child, a son, Charles Lewis Bland, born July 7, 1940 (sixteenth generation, and author of this book). On August 2, 1975, I married Mary Jane Migliore, daughter of Joseph and Concetta Migliore, in Buffalo, New York, and from this union there have been two seventeenth generation children: Christina Louise Bland, born April 7, 1978; and Thomas Eliot Bland, born March 6, 1981. The other children of Thomas Bunyan Bland and Margaret Delena Kirby were: Hestine Bland (1901-); Wilma Lorena Bland (1902-1977); Paul Bland (1905-1905); Thomas Bunyan Bland Jr. (1906-1971); Grace Truman Bland (1909-); Berry Jewel Bland (1912-1973); Virginia Viril Bland (1914-); John Carroll Bland (1916-1935); and Sarah Evelyn Bland (1919-).

The six remaining children (fourteenth generation) of Berry Elsey Bland and Martha Greene were: James Coran Bland, who was born July 2, 1879, and died in Rutherford County, North Carolina, May 8, 1908. Coran never married. Eva Bland was born October 4, 1881, and died November 2, 1962. She was married to John Childers on September 3 1899. Silas Pinkney Bland was born April 23, 1883, and died January 6, 1958. Silas married three women, including Lula Belle Callahan (1886-1909) about 1905; Rose Rayburn, about 1917; and following their divorce, Rose Younger, about 1930. Hester Agnes Bland was born September 1, 1884, and is still living. She married John Murray (1891-1977) on October 12, 1919. Furman Alonzo Bland was born April 17, 1886, and died March 18, 1948 in Nashville, Tennessee. Furman married first Dora Hawkins (1884-1971) on March 18, 1904, but they were divorced in the early 1930's, whereupon Furman married

TABLE XXXIX

THE FAMILY OF BERRY ELSEY BLAND OF RUTHERFORD COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: SEVEN GENERATIONS

(8)	Robert Bland (C.1703-1760)	= Jane _____, about 1729.
(9)	Robert Bland (1733-1787)	= Ann _____ in 1757.
(10)	Wormley Bland (1771-1800)	= Sarah Turner (1770-1847), about 1790.
(11)	William Bland (1792-1868)	= (1) Caroline _____, about 1812. (2) Vianah Padgett in 1847.
(12)	Thomas R. Bland (1829-1904)	= Patsy Rollins (1828-1913) in 1849.
(13)	Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917)	= Martha Greene (1849-1935) in 1875.

(14-1)	(14-2)	(14-3)	(14-4)
Thomas Bunyan Bland (1876-1955), married Margaret Delena Kirby (1883-1958) in 1899.	James Coran Bland (1879-1908), never married.	Eva Bland (1881-1962) married John Childers in 1899.	Silas Pinkney Bland (1883-1958) married (1) Lula Callahan about 1905; (2) Rose Rayburn in 1910; and (3) Rose Younger.

(14-5)	(14-6)	(14-7)
Hester Agnes Bland, married John Murray in 1919.	Furman Alonzo Bland (1886-1948), married Dora Hawkins (1884-1971) in 1904.	Printine Lenore Bland (1888-1889).

Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917) and his wife, Martha Greene Bland (1849-1935). Photo taken about 1885. Berry is holding Silas Pinkney Bland (1883-1958), and Martha is holding Hester Agnes Bland (1884-).

Courtesy: Bruce Bland.

James Coran Bland (1879-1908) and Hester Agnes Bland (1884-), probably made about 1905.

Courtesy Billie Bland.

Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917) and Eva Bland (1881-1962), about 1899.

Courtesy Margaret Bland Magliocco.

John and Eva Bland Childers (1881-1962). Unidentified girl is an "adopted" child. Photo taken about 1910.

Courtesy Bruce Bland, from an album of Wilma Bland.

The three wives of Silas Pinkney Bland. Clockwise: Lula Belle Callahan; Rose Rayburn with Silas Pinkney Bland Jr.; Rose Younger.

Courtesy, Margaret Bland Magliocco and Billie Clifton Bland.

Standing left-Furman Alonzo Bland (1886-1948); standing right-Silas Pinkney Bland (1883-1958); sitting-Berry Elsey Bland (1856-1917). Photo taken about 1901.

Courtesy Margaret Bland Magliocco.

Right to left-Furman Alonzo Bland (1886-1948); Ruth Bland (1907-1971); Dora Hawkins Bland (1884-1971); Clarence Baxter "Happy" Bland (1909-1981). Photo made about 1918.

Courtesy Margaret Bland Magliocco.

Thomas Bunyan Bland (1876-1955) in 1899.

Margaret Delena Kirby Bland (1883-1958) in 1899.

Both photos courtesy of Virginia Viril Bland Long.

Seated L-R: Hestine Bland Potts (1901-); Thomas Bunyan Bland (1876-1955); Margaret Delena Kirby Bland (1883-1958); Wilma Lorena Bland (1902-1977). Standing L-R: Bruce Steven Bland (1922-); Grace Truman Bland Shurley (1909-); Berry Jewel Bland (1912-1973); Thomas Bunyan Bland Jr. (1906-1971); Virginia Viril Bland Long (1914-); Sarah Evelyn Bland Setzer (1919-). Photo taken in 1949 on the Golden Wedding Anniversary of Bunyan and Maggie.

John Carroll Bland (1916-1935)

Picture on p. 542K. Charles Lewis Bland, author of A Vision of Unity: The Bland Family in England and America 1555-1900; his wife, Mary Jane Migliore Bland; his daughter, Christina Louise Bland; and his son, Thomas Eliot Bland.

Courtesy of Ronald J. Colleran, Buffalo Evening News.

Julia _____ from Nashville, Tennessee, and lived with her for the balance of his years. Printine Lenore Bland was born February 28, 1888, and died May 28, 1889. This concludes discussion of the family of Berry Elsey Bland and Martha Greene Bland (Table XXXVIII, page 542A, and photos, pages 542B-J, which pertain to this family).[1]

The fourth child of Thomas Bland and Patsy Rollins was Leonard C. Bland, who was born July 2, 1858, and died March 7, 1902. Leonard married Alice Scoggins (1865-) on November 29, 1881. Possibly Alice Scoggins, born in 1865, was a sister of Matilda Scoggins, wife of Noah Jonas Bland, who was born in 1863. Leonard C. Bland and Alice Scoggins had eight children (fourteenth generation). Corrie Bland was born in 1883, and died December 20, 1970. Minnie Bland's birthdate and date of death are unknown. Horace Bland was born July 4, 1890 and died August 1, 1891.

Rucker Bland, for whom there are no dates, is interesting enough to pause with. He married Minerva Cantrell on January 30, 1909, and she bore him nine children. Rucker, in an old photograph, appears as a short, roly poly, somewhat ungainly figure. Wearing a derby with a cigar chomped between his teeth, he looks like an Amos and Andy character done up in whiteface. "Cousin Rucker," as my family knew him, was by reputation somewhat wild, and a lover of the creature comforts. He was possessed of an epicurean nature that guaranteed him an interesting life, and would have comforted him in his dotage, had he lived that long. Rucker was another one of those hardy souls who struck out from Rutherford County, ending up in Canada, leaving

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[1] Information about the Berry Elsey Bland-Martha Greene family is noted in Margaret Bland Magliocco's The Bland Family of Rutherford County, North Carolina (1978).

behind wife and children, whom he loved so much, however, that he returned to Rutherford County during the dead of night, spirited in by his cousins, to visit Minerva and his children. By and by, Cousin Rucker died and was returned to Rutherford County on a train, accompanied by a dear friend who had associated with him in his work and saw to it that his corpse was unloaded at the station. His wife Minerva, who was waiting, took his body off the train, which bore the friend off into the night, never to be seen again.

The fifth child of Leonard C. Bland (thirteenth generation) and Alice Scoggins was Annie Bland. Her dates are uncertain, but probably she was born about 1893 or 1894.

The sixth child of Leonard C. Bland and Alice Scoggins was Robert Chatman Bland, who was born June 1, 1896 and died in 1968.

The eighth and final child of Thomas R. Bland (twelfth generation) and Patsy Rollins was Martha Catherine Bland, known to her nieces and nephews as "Aunt Mattie." Mattie was born December 31, 1873 and died at Hamlet, North Carolina on October 13, 1952. She is the daughter who had just been born when the first child of Thomas R. Bland and Patsy Rollins, Nancy Caroline (1850-1874) died in childbirth. Aunt Mattie married Robert Freeman (1872-1924) on December 22, 1897, and by him had four children.

This concludes the study of the fourth son of James Bland (seventh generation), Robert Bland (C.1703-1760), his family and his descendants as known to this author.

POSTSCRIPT

TO THE LIVING AND FUTURE GENERATIONS WITH LOVE AND HOPE

Throughout this book, I have traced family branches up to about the 20th century. Typically, the last generation noted has been the one whose lives were substantially lived during the 19th century. Their children began their lives late in the 19th century or early in the 20th. In many cases, they are our grandparents and among the elders that we grew up with. It should go without saying that many of them are now gone from the earth, but have left behind children and grandchildren who are still among us. There are many family lines, some discovered with continuity far back into historical America, and even England; others whose continuity reaches back far less in time. Few lines are now extinct, and there are decidedly many small children, youth and relatively young adults in the diverse branches who belong to the living generations. In my own family line, the seventeenth generation is the last, and I have counted sixteen members of it, including four boys and six girls who bear the Bland name. They range in age from infancy (Thomas Eliot Bland, my son, born March 6, 1981, and Leah Abigail Bland, born June 8, 1981) to thirty-one. Their lives will reach into the 21st century and their grandchildren, we may hope, will endure into the indefinite future, so that to them, our lives will seem as distant and remote as our 17th and 18th century ancestors seem to us today. May these far off, yet undreamed of children remember in their time,

the inscription on young David Bland's tomb (see title page), as we in this time have tried to understand and know more about all the generations that came before us. These generations now hold the key to the unknown and unwritten future of the Bland family in America.

APPENDIX I

The Family of Samuel Bland of Mecklenburg County, Virginia

APPENDIX I

The Family of Samuel Bland of Mecklenburg County, Virginia

Mrs. Jack (Marjorie Bland) Sayles, of Abilene, Texas, furnished the author a family line that is included as an appendix because (1) it reached me after the basic chapters had been formed, and (2) the family appears to have no position within the framework of either the James River Bland family or the Northern Virginia Blands.[1]

On July 23, 1725, in Elizabeth City County, Virginia, Samuel and Martha Bland witnessed the will of John Merritt. Nothing more is known of this Samuel Bland except that on September 4, 1755, a court in Warwick County, Virginia ordered settlement of Samuel Bland's estate. Thus, Samuel appears to have been born in the late 17th, early 18th century, and to have died in 1755.

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[1] Mrs. Sayles provided family group sheets and documents, as well as a letter from Dee Swift Jr., of Mt. Crawford, Virginia, December 31, 1975, which outlined the development of the early family. At the time, Mr. Swift suspected that the ancestors of Mrs. Sayles were descended from Peregrine Bland, of Charles River and York County (1596-1650), cf. pp. 240-243. That suspicion does not appear accurate; however, Mr. Swift did add some details about Peregrine that are useful: "At a court held January 1657 (York County), 'It is ordered that cattle belonging to Richard Bland be equally divided between his surviving brothers and sisters when they come of age, and that William Spence, their father-in-law (presumably their stepfather) have allowances for keeping them.'"

"At a court held 24 February 1657, 'It is ordered that William Spence deliver to Peregrine Bland all the cattle belonging to him who has made choice of Frances Browne for his Guardian, and upon delivery to give Spence a receipt.'"

"At a court held 25 October 1658, 'William Spence is appointed guardian of his sonne-in-law Peregrine Bland, and it is ordered that Francis Browne, with whom he lived, and wrought ye last year, satisfy and deliver for ye sd. Blands use so much tob. and corne as is due by condition made between ye sd. Browne and Spence. Expenses also are to be paid.'" Cf. p. 242, note 2.

The eldest child of Samuel Bland and Martha Merritt was Merritt Bland, who was born prior to 1730, proved by his appointment to a jury on June 6, 1751 in Warwick County.[1] On April 5, 1750, Thomas Bland made a deposition before the court and was identified as about eighteen. On May 1, 1760, Samuel Bland appeared in court to make an administrative motion about an estate. These then are three adduced children of Samuel Bland and Martha Merritt.

Of the three, nothing more was known by Mr. Swift about Samuel and Thomas Bland. Merritt Bland died in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, with his will dated March 2, 1773, and proved May 10, 1773. His will mentions a wife Sarah, and children Samuel, John, Martha and Elizabeth. In turn, nothing is known of any of the children of Merritt Bland and his wife Sarah or of his children, except for the son Samuel L. Bland. Samuel's birthdate is unknown, but along with his mother, he was the executor of Merritt Bland's estate, suggesting among other things that he was born sometime before 1752, probably earlier. Samuel's will was made January 22, 1820 and proved February 21, 1820. He may have been a justice of the peace when his father died, for it appears that his siblings hauled him into court to force him to carry out the terms of his father's will (he had delayed doing so, for reasons not clear). Incensed with Samuel's behavior, they went even further and succeeded in getting his authority to perform marriages suspended. Samuel appears to have been a stubborn man, for on one occasion he refused to appear at court and when a law officer attempted to deliver a summons, Samuel

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[1] As will be shown presently, Merritt's first male and female children were named Samuel and Martha, reinforcing the idea that Merritt was the son of Samuel Bland and Martha, his wife. According to this naming pattern, Merritt took his mother's maiden name as his own.

drove him off with gunfire. The next day, the lawman was run off by Samuel's son, Williamson. Samuel also was a horse breeder who lived on a small farm left to him by his father.

Samuel married Elizabeth Williamson, of Charlotte County, on June 12, 1781. In his will of 1820 he mentioned his wife Elizabeth, and children Elizabeth Norvill and Rebecca Carpenter. Samuel and Elizabeth had other children: Frances Bland, who married John Hudson on April 30, 1801, and was dead by 1820. They also had a son John Bland, who died on December 31, 1813, while serving in the American Army during the War of 1812.[1]

The final child of Samuel Bland and Elizabeth Williamson was Williamson Bland, who was born about 1782 in Charlotte or Mecklenburg County, Virginia, and died. Mr. Swift wrote: "I have it from a source to which I can no longer refer...that Williamson Bland died on December 1850, but I kinda have my doubts." Presumably, he died in Tennessee. Williamson married Dorcas Williams in Mecklenburg County, Virginia on November 17, 1806. Dorcas was born February 21, 1782 and died July 19, 1836.

Williamson Bland and Dorcas Williams moved their family to Wilson County, Tennessee in the fall of 1829. They had a family of eight known children, all born in Mecklenburg County, Virginia, including:

Samuel L. Bland, who was born September 26, 1808 and died February 1832. Samuel L. Bland was evidently not as cautious as his grandfather, for whom he was named. He began a teaching career that was cut short when he choked to death on a fish bone. He had married Mahalia Brinkley on January 22, 1830.

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[1] For his service, John was awarded land in Arkansas.

Sarah Ann Bland was born January 5, 1809 and died after June 1860. She married Archibald Cox, and they evidently preceded Williamson and Dorcas and their younger children to Tennessee.

Celia E. Bland was born August 12, 1813 and died in Benton County, Arkansas on February 11, 1873. According to Mr. Swift, "she was not bright, but not an idiot either," to which Swift adds that she never married. Perhaps she was bright enough to escape her suitors.

Elizabeth W. Bland was born September 4, 1815 and died January 14, 1872. She married on May 28, 1833 William C. "Dry Billy" Patterson and "they had a raft of kids."

John Williamson Petross Bland was born December 22, 1817 and with a name like that, old age was guaranteed. He died May 20, 1903. John W. P., as he was called, married on October 9, 1844, in Wilson, Tennessee, Malinda Jane Porterfield. They moved to Arkansas about 1856.

William David "Billy" Bland was born April 17, 1820, and died at Coryell, Osage, Texas. He married Melissa Levina Beadle on December 26, 1839.

Mary Jane Bland, whose date of birth is unknown, died in Wilson County, Tennessee, October 27, 1850. She married on August 10-11, 1841, Thomas Patton and had by him four children.

Francies Marion Marcus de Lafayette Bland, called "Fayte," was born June 1?, 1829 and died August 13, 1910, at Coryell, Texas, at Osage cemetery. He married on February 8, 1854, Elizabeth Porterfield (1833-1900), sister of Malinda Porterfield who married John William Petross Bland, the brother of Fayte. Fayte served as a sergeant in the 7th Regiment, Company F, of the Tennessee army, CSA. He was

captured at Hatcher's Run, Virginia April 2, 1865, and was on the list of prisoners of war at Point Lookout, Maryland. He was released May 20, 1865.[1]

Fayte Bland and Elizabeth Porterfield had a family of six children, including Mary Jane Bland (1854-1913), who was a teacher and married W. Vantriase on November 10, 1880; John William Carroll Bland (1858-1946) who married Lockey Tennessee Craddock on November 26, 1876;[2] Marian Florina Bland (1861-1936) married Jesse Abner Graham in 1892; Jefferson Davis Bland (1866-1898) married Prudence Edwards September 1, 1892; Rosalie Alice Bland (1870-1961) married Wreps Crawford Nettles on August 23, 1888; and Joe Harvey Bland (1877-1945) married in 1904 Mary Shannon. All of these children, excepting Mary Jane, were born in Wilson, Tennessee, and died in Coryell or Merkel, Texas.

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1 Fayte was imprisoned at Camp Lookout at about the same time as Lawrence Nathan Bland (1845-1902) of South Carolina. Cf. pp. 510-511.

2 John William Bland and Lockey Craddock had a family of eleven children, whose lives extended into the 20th century. One of these was Robert Lafayette Bland, born July 30, 1879, who died in Abilene, Texas, August 15, 1960. He married Eula May Diltz on November 27, 1898, and they had a family of five children, including Marjorie Bland, who married John Welcome Sayles on June 15, 1938.

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Readers are urged to use references in context. Check all sources, especially when searching for individuals with highly popular names and nicknames, e.g. Ann/Anne/Anna, Elizabeth, Jane, Margaret, Martha, Mary, Sara/Sarah, James, John, Richard, Theodorick (remember a British general once burned down the home of the wrong Theodorick Bland), Thomas, and William.

Names in this index are as shown in the book; however, the semi-annual newsletter "Among Cousins" has added hundreds of extra names and clarified many relationships. For further information about "Among Cousins" please contact:

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Corrections are inevitable and will be welcomed.

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